

John 20:19-31: On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came & stood among them & said to them, "**Peace be with you.**"²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands & his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, "**Peace be with you.** As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them & said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, & place my finger into the mark of the nails, & place my hand into his side, I will never believe."²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, & Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came & stood among them & said, "**Peace be with you.**"²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, & see my hands; & put out your hand, & place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord & my God!"²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen & yet have believed."³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, & that by believing you may have life in his name.

Intro: I watched part of the worship service at the church where that shooting in Nashville happened last week. It was their first meeting after that tragedy. One of the pastors, Britton Wood, opened the service with these words: "The world has changed since the last time that we got together on the LORD's Day. But there are some things that remain the same. There are a lot of things that are different, but some things haven't changed, and today is the day that we are reminded by our King Who lived for us and Who died for us and Who has risen for us - today is the day that He reminds us of the things that have not changed - of the kingdom that cannot be shaken. And let that draw us to offer God worship with reverence and awe. Some things are different today. But some things are the same. The world has changed. But our King still reigns."

I learned of a pastor friend of mine last week as well who lost his wife: Yes God is the same my brother. We miss my wife and the mother to my children but also know she is with the Lord and our hope is in Him. May the Lord continue to bless you and your ministry. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. And let us continue to go ye therefore into this dark world and shine the light of Jesus.

In this kind of world where so many things change (deaths of six people at a school; a young pastor losing his wife/children losing their mother; children diagnosed with disease) there's so much pain & loss & death. & also sin & rebellion around us & sin in us – we need to be reminded of what does not change! Who does not change: Jesus!

Jesus Christ, the God-Man & Son of God, gives us peace, power, pardon, & purpose like no one else can because He died on that cross & rose up from the dead so that all who repent & believe in Him shall have everlasting life!

1. Jesus Brings Peace On The First Day Of The Week

John 20:19: On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came & stood among them & said to them, "Peace be with you."

a. This all happened on the first day of the week – Sunday – the Lord's Day:

- 1) All seven appearances of Jesus before He ascended back to His Father that record a specific day when these appearances occurred happened on two Sundays, not on a Sabbath day
- 2) Christians are recorded in the Bible assembling three times on Sunday after the resurrection and before the ascension, never on the Sabbath
- 3) The only time Christians are recorded to have assembled together after Christ's ascension was on a Sunday in Acts 20:7. Never does the Bible record that the disciples assembled on the Sabbath.
- 4) The only day ever mentioned when Christians broke bread was on Sunday: Acts 20:7
- 5) Christians are commanded to give financially to the church on the first day of the week: 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
- 6) Jesus was declared to be the Son of God in power on Sunday: Romans 1:4

- 7) Psalm 2:7 "Today I have begotten You" was fulfilled on Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead: Acts 13:32-39
8) The Apostle John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day; The only other occurrence of this form of adjective "Lord's" in the New Testament is of the "Lord's" Supper: 1 Corinthians 11:20
9) Throughout history for over 2,000 years, Christians have met together on the first day of the week ever since Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week.

b. Jesus stood among them, even though the doors were locked: Jesus was able to go anywhere! He passed through or He opened locked doors!

John Piper: today in your life, Jesus can go where no one else can go. He can go where no counselor can go. He can go where no doctor can go. He can go where no lover can go. He can reach you, and reach into you, anywhere and any time. There is no place where you are, and no depths of personhood that you are which Jesus can't penetrate. Jesus's resurrection from the dead fits him to do what no one else can do. There is no one else like him in all the universe. He is alive, and he is the one and only God-Man. What he is capable of you cannot imagine. And it is a healing wonder to contemplate that all the complex layers of your life, which neither you nor anyone else can understand, are familiar territory to him.

c. Jesus' disciples were afraid: Notice "for fear of the Jews" the doors were locked! They were in hiding! They had seen what had happened! They were scared & concerned that what happened to Jesus might happen to them!

d. Jesus pronounced peace to His fearful disciples (3 times!): It's a standard greeting (Shalom!), but Jesus really brings it! The absence of conflict! The absence of fear! The absence of pain & heartache & heartbreak! Peace, calm, well being, wholeness, satisfaction, joy, confidence, serenity, peace – all is well – all is good – really!

Remember Thursday night (The Upper Room Discourse): John 14:27: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
- **John 16:33:** I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

From the beginning to the end, Jesus came to bring peace – remember the very beginning at His birth?:
Luke 2:14: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

- 1) **Jesus brought & brings peace with God: Romans 5:1:** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
2) **Jesus brought & brings peace with one another: Ephesians 2:14-18:** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one & has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments & ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, & might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. & he came & preached peace to you who were far off & peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Do you know this peace? **GOSPEL!**

2. Jesus Rose From Dead With His Crucified, Physical Body

John 20:20: When he had said this, he showed them his hands & his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

a. Jesus rose with a physical body: Luke 24:39-43: See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

b. Oh the power of the resurrection!: Stephen Charnock: Divine power was apparent in his resurrection. The unlocking of the belly of the whale for the deliverance of Jonah, the rescue of Daniel from the den of lions, and the restraining of the fire from burning the three children were signal declarations of his power and types of the resurrection of our Savior. But what are those to that which was represented by them? That was a power over natural causes, a curbing of beasts and restraining of elements. But in the resurrection of Christ, God exercised a power over himself and quenched the flames of his own wrath, hotter than millions of Nebuchadnezzar's furnaces; unlocked the prison doors, wherein the curses of the law had lodged our Savior stronger than the belly and ribs of a leviathan. In the rescue of Daniel and Jonah, God overpowered beasts and in this tore up the strength of the old serpent and plucked the scepter from the hand of the enemy of mankind. The work of resurrection, indeed, considered in itself, requires the efficacy of an almighty power. Neither man nor angel can create new dispositions in a dead body to render it capable of lodging a spiritual soul, nor can they restore a dislodged soul by their own power to such a body. The restoring of a dead body to life requires an infinite power, as well as the creation of the world. But there was in the resurrection of Christ something more difficult than this. While he lay in the grave, he was under the curse of the law, under the execution of that dreadful sentence, "You shall die the death" (Gen. 2:17). His resurrection was not only the retying of the marriage knot between his soul and body or the rolling of the stone from the grave but a taking off of an infinite weight, the sin of mankind, which lay upon him. So vast a weight could not be removed without the strength of an almighty arm. It is therefore ascribed not to an ordinary operation but an operation with power (Rom. 1:4), and such a power wherein the glory of the Father did appear: "Raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father" (Rom. 6:4)—that is, the glorious power of God. As the eternal generation is stupendous, so is his resurrection, which is called a new begetting of him (Acts 13:33).

c. Jesus has the scars in His hands and side forever: Revelation 5:9: And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation"

d. Seeing Jesus makes the disciples glad: What could be better than seeing the resurrected Christ! What could be better for you than seeing Jesus! Does seeing Jesus make you glad?!

3. Jesus Sends Out His Disciples (Peace, Purpose)

John 20:21: Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

Jesus didn't send His disciples out in all the same ways His Father sent Him out. The disciples didn't go out and die for the sins of the world! But as the Father sent Jesus out to trust & obey & to seek & to save that which was lost, so Jesus sent His disciples out to seek & save the lost by the preaching the Gospel message!

John Piper: He sent Me as light; I'm sending you as light! He sent Me as truth; I'm sending you as truth! He sent Me as a witness; I'm sending you as a witness! He sent Me to love; I'm sending you to love! [He sent Me to serve others; I'm sending you to serve others! He sent Me to lay down my life for others; I'm sending you to lay down your lives for others (not paying for their sins, but denying yourselves so that others may hear the Gospel!)]

Mat 28:18-20: Jesus came & said to them, "All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me. Go therefore & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. & behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

4. Jesus Grants His Disciples A Symbolic Foretaste Of His Holy Spirit (Power)

John 20:22: And when he had said this, he breathed on them & said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

a. This is not the same as the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2: John 16:7: Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, **I will send him to you.**

b. This is a symbolic foretaste of what God will do in Acts 2: Mark Dever: It's a symbol or foretaste or parable of what God is going to do in Acts 2. They will need the Holy Spirit to fulfill the great commission. Jesus is starting the new humanity here – He's breathing life into His people. He's recalling back to what God did in **Genesis 2:7:** then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

D. A. Carson: Jesus' "exhalation" and command *Receive the Holy Spirit* are best understood as a kind of acted parable pointing forward to the full endowment [the giving of the Holy Spirit] still to come (though in the past for John's readers). A suitable Johannine analogy might be the washing of the disciples' feet: "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me" (13:8). That can be read at a simplistic level as exhausted in the footwashing. Readers with more insight understand that the footwashing itself points forward to the spiritual washing achieved by the Lamb of God whose death takes away the sin of the world. John has repeatedly developed these anticipating steps in his narrative; it is not surprising if he uses one more to show that the story does not end with his book.

c. Jesus is God: As God breathed life into the first man in Genesis 2:7, so Jesus breathes new spiritual life into His disciples. The Holy proceeds from both the Father and the Son!

d. Jesus' disciples then & we do now need the power of the Holy Spirit to be Christ's witnesses!

5. Jesus Grants The Church Her Mission (Pardon is also their Purpose)

John 20:23: If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.

a. The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, and this starts with the forgiveness of sins: The church is called to make disciples of Jesus Christ by teaching them to obey all that Jesus has commanded. This starts with the proclamation of the Gospel so that sinners might be forgiven. This is the first step!

- **Andreas Kostenberger:** The idea is not that individual Christians or churches have authority on their own to forgive or not forgive people, but rather that as the church proclaims the Gospel message of forgiveness of sins in the power of the Holy Spirit, it proclaims that those who believe in Jesus have their sins forgiven, & that those who do not believe in him do not have their sins forgiven – which simply reflects what God in heaven has already done.

- **John Piper:** When you tell people about what I have done, speaking my word, about my work, in the power of my Spirit, I am the one speaking through you, so that if anyone believes your word, I forgive their sins. And if any does not believe your words, I don't forgive them. And since you are my voice and my truth, I speak of you forgiving them, and you withholding forgiveness.

b. We long for the forgiveness of sins because we long for God: Forgiveness is central because God is central!

6. Unbelieving Thomas

John 20:24-25: Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, & place my finger into the mark of the nails, & place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Thomas wants to see for himself & touch for himself! He trusts his senses – his eyes & his hands – more than the eyewitness testimony of his ten disciple friends & more than the Word of Christ & more than the Word of God!

Carl Robbins: Thomas basically says I will not believe your ten collective eye witness testimony. I will only believe my ten fingers when I can jam them into the side of Jesus.

God's Word is more trustworthy than your senses!

- **The rich man and Lazarus: Luke 16:27-31:** And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house - ²⁸ for I have five brothers - so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

- **Galatians 1:8-9:** But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

- **1 Corinthians 15:1-6:** Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

7. Jesus Reveals Himself To Thomas

John 20:26-27: Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, & Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came & stood among them & said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, & see my hands; & put out your hand, & place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

a. Jesus mercifully reveals Himself to Thomas: Jesus gives Thomas what he asked for! This is sheer mercy!

b. Jesus wants Thomas to believe: John 3:16; Romans 4:5

c. Jesus knew what Thomas thought and said a week ago: Sinclair Ferguson: Thomas couldn't see Jesus when he said all those words about "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, & place my finger into the mark of the nails, & place my hand into his side, I will never believe." - But Jesus was there! Jesus knew His Words and thoughts! Jesus was there! Jesus is here! Jesus is omnipresent with respect to His divine nature! Jesus is God!

8. Believing Thomas's Great Confession

John 20:28: Thomas answered him, "My Lord & my God!"

The Gospel of John begins and ends with this great confession and this truth is scattered all over & in between!

- **John 1:1-3:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

- **John 5:18:** This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

- **John 5:22-23:** The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father.

- **John 8:58:** Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

- **John 10:30:** I and the Father are one.

- **John 14:9:** Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

9. Jesus Pronounces Blessing On Those Who Walk By Faith

John 20:29: Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen & yet have believed."

This is the second & last blessing Jesus gives in John's Gospel! And this blessing is for you! You all haven't seen! And yet you believe!

- **Hebrews 11:1-2:** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation.
- **1 Peter 1:8-9:** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- **2 Corinthians 5:6-7:** So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight.

10. The Purpose Of John's Gospel: That You May See These Signs & Believe & Have Life In Jesus' Name

John 20:30-31: Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, & that by believing you may have life in his name.

This is the purpose statement of the whole Gospel of John!

Believe: 1) Knowledge; 2) Assent; 3) Trust

Jesus Christ, the God-Man & Son of God, gives us peace, power, pardon, & purpose like no one else can because He died on that cross & rose up from the dead so that all who repent & believe in Him shall have everlasting life!

Christ Jesus Appeared, Spoke A Peace Affirmation
 Behind Locked Doors Stood Our Firm Foundation
 The First Of The Week He Rose For Salvation
 After Dying Alone: Our Propitiation
 His Hands And His Feet Marked With Scars Of Damnation
 The Disciples Were Glad With Joy Elation
 As His Father Sent Him For Our Justification
 He Sends Us Out For Soul Transformation
 Breathed Out His Spirit For New Creation
 Forgiveness In Him Affirms The Congregation
 Thomas Wasn't There At The First Celebration
 Then He Saw With His Eyes To Make Confirmation
 "My LORD And My God!" Was His Great Exclamation
 Blessed Are Those Who Haven't Seen On Location
 But Trust In Christ Alone For No Condemnation
 These Signs Have Been Given Of The Incarnation
 So You'll Believe He's The Christ, God's Son Revelation
 And Worship And Praise Him With All Adoration!

John 20:31: these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ . . . [Jesus is the King!]

Read "That's My King!"