



April 20, 2014
Celebration | 8:45 am
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor Dave Mitchell

Set Free by the Resurrected Jesus John 20 - 21

For those that doubt Jesus... Learn from Thomas | John 20:24-29

- **Jesus desires to connect with you**
"After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, 'Peace be with you.'" -John 20:26
- **Jesus invites you to explore the real facts about Him.**
"Then He said to Thomas, 'Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.'" John 20:27
- **Jesus promises a blessed life as you believe in Him.**
"Jesus said to him, 'Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.'" John 20:29 (See Digging Deeper)

For those who have dropped out of church... Learn from Peter | John 21:3-17

- **Find a renewed relationship of love from Jesus and His true followers.**
"Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?'" John 21:15
- **Find a fulfilling purpose for your life.**
"Tend my lambs." John 21:15
- **Find relevant wisdom to direct your life.**
"Follow Me." John 21:19

For those discouraged with life... Learn from Mary Magdalene | John 20:1-18

- **Jesus desires to help you when you do not know what to do next.**
"...I do not know where they have laid Him." John 20:13-14
- **Jesus is with you even if you do not recognize Him.**
"... she turned around and saw Jesus standing there and did not know that it was Jesus." John 20:14
- **Jesus will encourage you and offer direction for your life.**
"...go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" John 20:17

Digging Deeper:

After Thomas' doubts about Jesus were erased by a clear factual knowledge of Jesus' resurrection, Jesus promised a blessed life for any that will believe in Him in John 20:29 - *"Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."*

Below are four blessings anyone may receive after believing in Jesus.

1. **We know for certain that we will be in heaven the moment we die.** Philippians 1:21-23
2. **We know that Jesus is alive and with us in this life.** Matthew 28:19, 20
3. **We will enjoy a perfect resurrected body.** Philippians 3:30, 21
4. **We will be reunited with those that died in Christ.** I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Jesus had repeatedly told Thomas, and all His disciples of His plan to die on the cross and be resurrected on the third day. This "Fact" was forgotten by most of them, especially Thomas. Below are some of those predictions, now fulfilled in Jesus resurrection:

Mark 8:31: *"And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."*

Mark 9:31-32: *"For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, 'The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later.' But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him."*

Mark 10:33-34: *"Jesus was saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. "They will mock Him and spit on Him, and scourge Him and kill Him, and three days later He will rise again."*

Jesus freely offered Thomas the opportunity to verify the facts of His resurrection by inviting Thomas to physically inspect Him and confirm that He is indeed alive. Upon that examination, Thomas reached the clear conclusion that Jesus is indeed God. That inspection caused Thomas to move from doubt to true belief in Jesus as God.

Next Steps:

1. Jesus invites anyone to explore the real facts about who He is and what He has accomplished. Here are some books to help learn about these facts:
 - *"More Than A Carpenter"* by Josh McDowell
 - *"The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict"* by Josh McDowell
 - *"Mere Christianity"* by C. S. Lewis
 - *"Know Why You Believe"* by Paul Little
 - *"Know What You Believe"* by Paul Little
2. We also offer a course called Alpha in which all the claims of Christ and Christianity are researched and explored. We are confident that anyone that takes the time to learn about these areas will not be disappointed in the reality of who Christ is and what He came to accomplish—to forgive the sins of anyone that believes in His death, burial and resurrection as payment in full for all sins. No one can earn that forgiveness by good works. It is an act of faith in Christ's sacrifice for you.

As Jesus said, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* -John 3:16-18