

Week 40

Jesus is Alive

Today we have come in our study of John's gospel to chapter 20:24.

First of all, let's get the context of these events; the time is the first day of the week, Sunday, Easter Sunday. Mary Magdalene, Peter and John have been to the tomb and know it is empty, Jesus is gone. Mary has seen and spoken to Jesus. Then in John 20 verse 19; Jesus appeared to the disciples in the evening of the same day, to show them He is alive. However, Thomas was missing from the congregation that day and he did not see Jesus or believe He had risen. You never know what you will miss if you don't show up to meet with believers.

John 20:24-25

Thomas stubbornly refused to believe even though all the men and some of the women had seen Jesus and talked with Him. Thomas was a skeptical man as we saw in John 14:5 when Jesus had told them He was going away to prepare a place for them and they knew the way. Thomas said how could they know the way when they had no idea where He was going.

Isn't it another proof of the authenticity of the record? After all if this gospel were written as a deception, who would include the evidence that one of the founders didn't initially believe it?

John 20:26-27

Jesus knew Thomas' heart and He was so gracious, He gave him proof of being crucified and then raised from the dead.

Jesus was merciful and kind to one who was dull and slow to believe. Jesus knows we can be dull and slow to believe also and He is compassionate and merciful to all of us.

Jesus has a lot of lame sheep in his flock, I can be one of them myself when trials come and I wonder if He has forgotten me, sometimes I just want it to be over forgetting He values my patient endurance.

The resurrection of Christ from the dead is the foundation of the Christian faith and is important to us for many reasons.

- 1) Because He rose from the dead, we know for certain He is the Son of God and all He taught is true. Jesus said in John 3:16-18 whoever believes in Him will have

eternal life. Because Jesus is God and truthful, we know that His promise of eternal life is also true.

- 2) Jesus is alive; therefore we worship and serve a living Savior. We can be changed as the disciples were and have the confidence that some day our bodies will be raised to live with Christ forever.
- 3) The same power that raised Christ is Present for us today to sanctify us, that is help us to live a life of growing spiritual maturity.

John 20:28

Jesus is accepted Thomas' worship; He accepted being addressed as God. This is a distinct testimony of Jesus divinity and the divinity of Christ is the foundational truth of Christianity. For Thomas to worship Him as God would have been blasphemy if it were not true.

Jesus is Man, therefore He can be touched with the feeling of our troubles and infirmities"; He is God and is able to "save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him. What a Savior.

John 20:29

This is a promise for you and for me; Jesus said we are blessed when we believe even though we have not seen. This corresponds with the statement in Hebrews 11:1 which I always think of as the definition of faith; "Now faith is the assurance or substance of things hoped for or expected, the conviction of things not seen". Another way of saying this is; Faith is perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses. Can you believe Jesus without seeing Him? We have all the proof we need in the words of the Bible and the testimony of believers. God told us in Romans 1:20 that He placed enough evidence in the Creation that mankind is without an excuse.

John 20:30-31

These verses I have quoted often throughout this study; here John stated his purpose for writing this gospel. His purpose was to encourage belief and to encourage those who believe to continue faithful. After thinking back over all we have studied for the past year, we realize that John is here stating that what he recorded represents only a few events from the 3 years of Jesus ministry but it includes everything we need to know to understand that Jesus is the Messiah or Christ, the Son of God and the One through Whom we receive eternal life, He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

John 21:1-3

Jesus had made at least 6 appearances in and around Jerusalem. After this the disciples returned to Galilee, Jesus had told them in Matthew 28:10 that He would meet them there. When they arrived in Galilee they evidently were confused and didn't know what else to do so they returned to what they knew, fishing. Let this be a

reminder that these were hard working men who had to provide for themselves by the sweat of their brow. There were no educated men among them and yet they turned the world upside down. Doesn't this witness to the miraculous nature of the gospel?

John 21:4-7

Another witness to the resurrection of Christ, these two above all men would know Jesus. Peter and John immediately recognized Him because of the huge catch of fish. Remember Jesus performed this same miracle in the beginning of His ministry, Luke 5.

John 21:8-9

Peter, impulsive as usual jumped into the water.

John 21; 10-11

After fishing all night and catching nothing, suddenly they caught 153 large fish. The exact number recorded by the eyewitness, John, so we know the facts.

John 21; 12-13

They were silent as they ate their breakfast with Jesus, it must have been overwhelming to be with Him again especially for Peter.

John 21:14

John's commentary; Jesus again proving to them He was alive. John is constantly fulfilling his purpose; to show that Jesus is the Messiah.

John 21:15-17

The biblical definition of love is "the choice to do good for the other person even if it requires self sacrifice". Jesus was the perfect example of this; He gave His life for us. And now He was asking Peter if he was willing to give up his livelihood of fishing and go tell the world about Jesus. Jesus was asking Peter if he was willing to become a fisher of men. We can't help remembering that Peter denied Jesus 3 times. And so Jesus asked him 3 times if Peter loved him. The proof of his love for Jesus would be his service to Jesus; caring for Jesus' flock. Do you love Jesus? You may work for Him much, you may give much money to the church, but I wonder, do you love Jesus much?

This is the uniqueness of Christianity, what other religion talks about love? Where else can you hear about the love of God but in the bible? Knowledge, doctrine, moral life, church attendance all are important but do you love Jesus? Its unfortunate that so many religions focus on the rules they make rather than the love of God.

What would make you love Jesus? Isn't it the sense that you have been forgiven of your sin? If you have come to Jesus in faith, confessed and repented of your sin and

been forgiven, you should be full of love for Him. Think of what He suffered to pay your sin debt. I am constantly reminded how unworthy I am to have the God of the universe forgive me and allow me to be His child.

Jesus asked Peter to feed His sheep. What has Jesus asked you to do? Love the LORD your God with all your heart and soul and mind and love your neighbor as yourself. You can show your love for Jesus by loving others, doing good for others, deny yourself and follow Jesus.

Do you remember that Jesus advised the disciples in John 15 that they would need to abide in Him and to love one another? He told them that their relationship with the world would be entirely different because of Him, since they loved Christ and loved one another the world would transfer its hate for Christ to them. Yet they were to take the good news to the world. He then explained how the Presence of the Holy Spirit, the Counselor would make this possible.

Jesus told them in John 16 that the Holy Spirit would have 5 important jobs:

- 1) To convict the world of sin and call it to repentance
- 2) To reveal the standard of God's righteousness to anyone who believe
- 3) To demonstrate Christ's judgment over Satan
- 4) To direct believers into all truth
- 5) To reveal more about Jesus

John 21:18-22

This is a clear statement that Peter's ministry would not be an easy life of wealth, and worldly success, but would ultimately end in his death, and so it was. Peter lived to be persecuted, beaten, imprisoned and martyred for Christ, exactly as Jesus predicted.

This is a good reminder that Jesus knows your future and all it holds. Do you understand that the day of your death is already scheduled, nothing is out of control? Psalm 139 says all the days of your life were written in His book before any of them came to be. Everything from beginning to end is foreseen by the One who is too wise to make a mistake and too loving to do us harm. Romans 8:28 tells us that God is able to work all things together for good for those who love Him. This is not saying everything that happens to us is good but it promises that whatever happens God is able to make something good out of it.

John 21:24

Here John makes a solemn promise that he is the author of this record, the Gospel of John, and he is also willing to testify that all he has said is true because he was an eyewitness to all the events he described.

John 21:25

Do you recall our study of John 5 where we saw Jesus healing the lame man at the pool at Bethesda?

Jesus explained that he needed to believe and receive spiritual healing as well as physical. God makes the offer and God performs the miracle, but we must respond to His offer and accept it.

This final statement of John is an affirmation that his book does not contain everything that Jesus did, John's book contains records found in the other gospels but John also told us things the other writers did not say, think of the prologue or the first 18 verses of Chapter 1. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. This One who was in the beginning, who contained life is the very one who was crucified for your sin and mine.

What John wrote provides believers with a true biography of the greatest person who ever lived; Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

We have come to the end of our study of John; I hope it has been valuable to you. Please remember that all the programs all the way back to October 2010 are archived on my website, www.lightformypath.org. You will find notes there also for every study.

It is my prayer that you will have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and will continue your study of His eternal word. If it is your desire to today to commit your eternity to Jesus Christ, pray with me; Jesus, I know that I am a sinner in need of a Savior, I believe that the penalty You suffered in the crucifixion is adequate to pay my sin debt in full. I know I cannot make myself righteous and guilt free by my works; I need your solution to my sin problem. I ask you to forgive me, to cleanse me and to save me for all eternity. I give my life to You and ask you to be my LORD as well as my Savior. Amen

If you prayed this prayer, please let me know.