

FINAL NOTES - THIS WEEK'S STUDY – 3/11-12/24 - (John 20:1-31)

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes from previous studies

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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OPENING PRAYER

Review from last week: *The Soldiers Mock Jesus! Pilate's Decision! The King on a Cross! Behold Your Mother! It is Finished! Jesus' Side is Pierced! Jesus is Buried in Joseph's Tomb!*

(John 20:1-31) – *The Empty Tomb!* – (vs. 1-10); *Mary Magdalene Sees The Risen Lord!* - (vs. 11-18); *The Apostles Commissioned!* - (vs. 19-23); *Seeing and Believing!* – (vs. 24-29); *That You May Believe!* - (vs. 30-31)!

The Resurrection - The Empty Tomb! – (vs. 1-10)

Joh 20:1 Now the first day of the week (Sunday morning) Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early (fourth watch), while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

- **In reading the various gospel accounts concerning the resurrection day, there do seem to be variations in the accounts.** In some of the other gospels, they have Mary Magdalene coming with the other ladies. In the other gospels, they have the other ladies on their way back from the tomb, meeting Jesus, holding Him by His feet and worshipping Him.
- **So what probably is the chronological events on Easter Sunday morning is that Mary started off with the other ladies for the tomb.** In her eagerness and desire to get there, she went ahead of the other ladies. When she came to the tomb and saw that the stone was rolled away, her immediate surmised was that they had moved the body of Jesus. John mentions only Mary Magdalene. He probably does this because his object was to give a particular account of her interview with the risen Savior.
- **She, without waiting for the other ladies to get there, ran to tell Peter and John** that the body of Jesus was moved or that the stone was away from the door of the sepulcher. The other ladies then arrived. They saw the angels who told them that Jesus was risen and told them to go tell the other disciples.
- **In the meanwhile, Mary arrives where Peter and John are staying and she tells them** that the stone is rolled away. They come to investigate. They are running. In fact, as John tells us that they were running to the tomb together and that Mary no doubt decided to come back to the tomb. But by the time she got back, Peter and John saw the tomb and then they left.
- **Mary then came back, not knowing that the other ladies had seen the angels, and at this time she looks** into the tomb, sees the two angels, and then meets Jesus as we will read in John's gospel. Then, when she saw that the stone was taken away from the sepulcher, which is all she saw and the surmised was that they have moved Jesus!

Joh 20:2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

- **John is the only one that describes himself that way.** John knew that the Lord loved him. I believe that he believed that the Lord loved him more than anybody else, like I am sure He loves me more than the rest of you. And you are sure that He loves you more than He does the rest of us! The Lord has that unique way of relating to us where we each one of us feel very special to Jesus because we are each one of us very special to Him.
- **And said to them, They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.** This is just a surmised on her part. This is just her observation and her immediate judgment of the situation. "They've taken away the Lord!"

Joh 20:3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.

Joh 20:4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

- **John has to rub it in a little bit here.**

Joh 20:5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

Joh 20:6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there,

Joh 20:7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

- **The Greek language here would indicate that the linen wrappings were still in their folds.** That it was as though He just sort of evaporated out of them. If you were going to unwrap somebody, you would unwrap him. But the wrappings were as though the body were still in it. They were still in their folds but the body of Jesus was not inside of the wrappings. The napkin that they had over His head was over in a place separately by itself. So they realized that the body of Jesus was not there, that He was not under the wrappings.

- **It would appear immediately that John caught the significance of it.** He realized that they had not moved the body of Jesus. If they had they moved the body of Jesus; they would have moved it with the wrappings. Or at least the wrappings would be all disheveled on the floor.

Joh 20:8 *Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.*

- **John saw and believed!** By the way the linen wrappings were left, he immediately realized that Jesus had risen!
- **It is good to be encouraged in a good work by the boldness of others.** The dread of difficulty and danger may be taken off by observing the resolution and courage of others. Perhaps John's quickness had made Peter run faster, and now Peter's boldness makes John venture further, than otherwise either the one or the other would have done.

Joh 20:9 *For as yet they did not know (understand) the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.*

- **That is an interesting thing, showing the blindness of preconceived ideas.** Jesus had told them over and over that He was to be crucified. When Jesus spoke of His crucifixion, Peter rebuked Him. They do not want to hear that! It is interesting when you do not want to hear something, how you can just sort of close that out of your mind. You believe that you have a precept that is correct. The Messiah is going to rule and reign over the earth. That is a correct precept, but He did not come in His first coming to rule and reign. In His second coming, He will come to rule and to reign.
- **But they thought that the reigning Messiah was the only Messiah, that there was only one Coming.** They had sort of spiritualized the prophecies of His suffering. So this of Him ruling was so strong in their minds that they even dismissed it, every time Jesus talked about His death and His resurrection. At the last part of this chapter, John tells us that Jesus did many other signs, which He did not record. But these are written, in other words, John was selective in choosing the miracles and all that Jesus did. This happens to be the seventh sign that John records and the greatest sign of all, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead!
- **When Jesus began His public ministry, He began it by going to Jerusalem and cleansing the temple.** You remember He went in and looked about and saw them as they were merchandising there. He made a little whip out of some cords. He began to drive them out and the disciples remembered the scriptures, The zeal of Thine house has eaten Him up. The rulers came to Him and said, What sign do you show us that You are doing these things? Who gave you the authority to come in here and clean up this place? Jesus said unto them, Destroy this temple and in three days I will rebuild it. They looked at Him rather incredulously, saying, we have been forty-six years building this thing and You say You are going to build it again in three days? They did not understand that He was talking about His body (*John 2:13-21*). The temple of His body. Destroy it and in three days, I will rebuild it. He is talking about His resurrection. That was at the beginning.
- **But the disciples did not catch on. They did not understand that.** Later on when Jesus was asked for a sign, (*Mat 12:39-40*) *But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. [40] For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The supreme sign of Jesus as the Messiah, that He is indeed the Messiah is His resurrection from the dead and that is the heart of the Gospel message.*
- **In the Book of Acts, we see they preached the resurrection of Jesus from the dead** in practically every message. (*Act 2:23-24*) *Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; [24] whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. Every time they preached, their preaching was of the cross and of the resurrection, which is the heart of the Gospel. Paul said in (*1Co 15:1-4*) *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, [2] by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. [3] For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, [4] and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. That is the message of the Gospel; the heart, the soul of the Gospel! So here is the story of the resurrection.**
- **Now in (*Act 1:3*) to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.** Thus, the

resurrection. As far as the disciples were concerned, it was a proven fact because they were eyewitnesses, they saw Him. So the story of the resurrection. "Yet they did not know the scriptures, that He must rise again from the dead." They really thought it was over. They were not waiting for the third day, anxiously, All Right, tomorrow, that is it, man. They were not waiting for that. They really thought it was over. As far as they were concerned, it is done, it is over. We had hoped in Him for the salvation of Israel. But they put Him on a cross and this is the third day. They said, Some of the women said that they saw Him but, you know.

- **In (Luk 24:25) Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!** They believed only part of what the scripture said. They only believed the part of the ruling, reigning Messiah but they did not believe that He would be "wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. Despised and rejected of men. That God would lay on Him the iniquities of us all." That He would be "numbered with the transgressors" in His death (*Isaiah 53:3,5,6,12*). (And they would pierce His hands and His feet. (*Psa 22:16b,18*) They pierced My hands and My feet; [18] They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. They did not believe all that the scriptures said, but only part.

Joh 20:10 Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

- **According to tradition, John had a home in Jerusalem.** In chapter 18, he was known to the household of the high priest. John's family was wealthy, his father being a fish merchant. John was probably one of the salesmen in Jerusalem, bringing the fish from the Galilee. *They went to their own homes.*

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene - Mary Magdalene Sees The Risen Lord! - (vs. 11-18)

Joh 20:11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.

- **It could be that Peter and John were there when Mary came back or that they had left before Mary came back** but she was standing there by the sepulcher weeping,

Joh 20:12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

Joh 20:13 Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

- **Several things that are of interest here. Even though He had been dead for three days as far as Mary was concerned, He was still her Lord!** She had a love that death could not quench. And rightly so. Jesus said, (*Luk 7:47*) *Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.*" Mary, prior to meeting Christ, had a miserable life. We know from the scriptures that He had cast seven devils out of her. We cannot imagine the torment of a person who is possessed by an unclean spirit. The absolute torture and torment! She knew it firsthand! Her life was one of abject misery, hopelessness. When she met Jesus, her life changed. He, by a word, drove out the darkness and brought in the light! He delivered her from the powers of darkness that had enslaved her! He set her free! She, in response and in gratitude committed her life to Him, fully, completely! What tremendous love. Thought He has been crucified, she stood there by the cross watching it. Yet He is still her Lord!

Joh 20:14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.

- **That is interesting to me. When you are looking for the Lord, even angels will not do!** I imagine if you look in a sepulcher and see a couple of angels and they start talking to you, man, you would be so excited and you are angels, wow! But they might be wonderful but they are no substitute for the Lord!
- **So she turned from them, and she saw Jesus standing there, and did not know it was Jesus!** Again it is very early in the morning. You can see figures but they are not necessarily recognizable, especially if your eyes are filled with tears and the prism of the tears is blurring your vision.

Joh 20:15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? *Whom are you seeking?*" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

- **I will take Him away!** That is a pretty strong statement for a little gal! I believe that Jesus was a good-sized man. Here she is saying, just tell me where you have taken Him, I will carry Him away! The strength of love! I am sure she could have because of the strength of love. But I think that at that suggestion, Jesus probably saw some humor in it.

Joh 20:16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

Joh 20:17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

- **There's a couple of different interpretations here.** Matthew's gospel tells us that as the other ladies were going from the sepulcher, Jesus met them and they held Him by the feet and worshipped Him. When Jesus appeared to the disciples, He said, (**Luk 24:39**) *Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.* And yet He is saying to Mary, *Do not cling to Me!*
- **The word here "Do not cling (*haptomai* – attach, adhere, fasten oneself to) to Me, is in the present imperative.** What Jesus is saying is, *Do not cling to Me, Mary, but go and tell the disciples that I am risen!* It is my feeling that when she saw Him, she probably got a death hold grip around His neck. Sort of like, You got away from me once but You are never going to get away from me again! In her excitement, in her thrill, I believe that she really just grabbed Him and clung to Him.
- **He said to her, Do not cling to Me, Mary, but go to My brethren (only time in John's gospel) and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God!'**
- **As prophesied in (Psa 22:22, Heb 2:12) I will declare Your name to My brethren.**
- **I shall not ascend (depart) immediately, it may be done another time!** The best thing you can do right now is to carry the message of My resurrection tidings to the disciples! Make haste! Lose no time! Go away with all speed! (**Joh 16:28**) *I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father."*
- **Our call to His service is to be preferred before our own private satisfaction!** It is more blessed to give than to receive. Mary must not stay to talk with her Master, but must carry His message; for it is a day of good tidings, which she must not selfishly covet, but hand it to others!
- **Another possibility is that He was going to and did ascend to the Father immediately upon the resurrection to present the blood of the sacrifice.**

Joh 20:18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

- **It is interesting that the first one commissioned to share the glorious gospel of the resurrection was a woman.** God had chosen Mary Magdalene to be the first one to share the good news! But what love we see that she had for Jesus!
- **Later on, a short while later, Jesus appeared to the other ladies.** They held His feet and worshipped Him. That afternoon, He appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. That evening He appeared again to the disciples in Jerusalem. The other disciples made mention of the fact that some of the women said that He was risen but they made mention of that in an unbelieving way. They did not really believe the story of the women.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples - The Apostles Commissioned! - (vs. 19-23)

Joh 20:19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut (locked) where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

- **Remember it was at evening that He left the two disciples in Emmaus.** As they had come to Emmaus, they said, Abide with us because the evening is drawing on. He went into the house and He sat down with

them. We remember He broke bread, and as He broke it, they suddenly realized it is Jesus! Probably they saw the nail prints in His hands. Then they recognized it was Jesus and immediately He disappeared .

- **When the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews.** The doors were shut; which is not merely expressive of the time of night, when this was usually done; but signifies that they were really locked and bolted, and barred, **for fear of the Jews.**
- **Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you.** His sudden appearing in *the midst of them* when they were full of doubts concerning Him; full of fears concerning themselves, could not but put them into some disorder, dismay and fear. (**Luk 24:37-39**) But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit (ghost). [38] And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? [39] Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I, Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." As He did with the wind and the waves, He stills with this word, "Peace be with you." That is **peace with God!** The price has been paid. You and I, as sinners, saved by grace, no longer have to be afraid of God, who is now our Heavenly Father! We have peace with God!

Joh 20:20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw (perceived) the Lord.

- **And as the other gospels said, He said, Handle Me, see if it isn't Me.** (**Gen 2:23**) *And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.*
- **Then the disciples were glad, when they saw the Lord.**" They have now more than just the testimony of the women. Actually Jesus appeared to Peter sometime during that day, but now they have seen Him for themselves! When they saw Him, they realized, they perceived that it was Him! They were glad!

Joh 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

- **Again, "Peace to you!" This seems to have been the "peace of God!"** His peace for us, His sent ones, is higher than anything we have in being sent! That in spite of their great joy they might quietly hear what He had further to say to them; To encourage them to accept the commission He was giving them, even though it would involve them in a great deal of trouble, that He would be their peace!
- **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.** Christ is sending them, appointing them to go on with His work upon earth, and to lay out themselves for the spreading of His gospel, and the setting up of His kingdom, among men. He sent them authorized with a divine warrant, armed with a divine power. He sent them as ambassadors and as heralds to proclaim it! Hence they were called *apostles - men sent.*
- **He had a power to send them equal to that which the Father had to send Him!** Here the force of the comparison seems to lie. By the same authority that the Father has sent Me, I also send you. This proves the Godhead of Christ; the commissions He gave were of equal authority with those which the Father gave, and as valid and effectual to all intents and purposes, equal with those He gave to the Old Testament prophets in visions.

Joh 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

- **He breathed - (emphusao – blow at or on).** **The only time** it is used in the New Testament. In the Old Testament, in the Septuagint translation, it is used in (**Gen 2:7**) *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed** into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (Eze 37:9) Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and **breath**e on these slain, that they may live. So **He breathed life** into Adam. The history of redemption worked out to the point in this room where He breathes life again into man, the new creation. We are new creations in Christ!*
- **The Spirit comes when the Lord says it comes, here and now, and it is not just a symbol.** He sends it. He breathes. The Spirit comes! All of us in this room that have been born again have been born again by the Spirit of God. These disciples at this point in time are born again. Were they born again before this? Well, they were believers before this. But they could not be born again until the crucifixion and the resurrection! Old Testament Saints believed. They believed in a sacrificial system, substitutionary atonement. But once Christ dies on the cross and rises, then He is able to be the Sender of the Spirit and of His Saints into the world! So these men at this point are born again, being made capable of the

employments and enjoyments of the future state! (*Luk 20:36*) *nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.*

- **I believe that it was at this time that they received the second of the threefold relationship (*para-alongside, en-in, epi-upon*) of the believer with the Spirit.** Jesus had said in the fourteenth chapter concerning the Spirit that was going to come. (*Joh 14:16-17*) *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— [17] the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you (para) and will be in (en) you. He shall be in you!* So when Jesus said, “Receive the Holy Spirit,” I believe that they experienced at that point the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and at that point were born again by the Spirit.
- **Jesus had said to Peter earlier, (*Luk 22:31-32*) *And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. [32] But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."*** I believe that at this point the Spirit began to indwell them. A born again, born of the Spirit experience. It was imperative that Jesus go away because the Spirit could not come, He said, until He had gone away!
- **The Holy Spirit upon you!** This third relationship where they would then be empowered. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes and here the third preposition, *upon you*, “*epi*.” When He comes upon you, you will be empowered to witness, to be my witnesses. The *epi* (*Act 1:8*) *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon (epi) you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*
- **So “He breathed on them and said, Receive the Holy Spirit.”** I do not think that Jesus could breathe on you and say that without something happening. I believe that it was at that point that they did receive the indwelling, “He shall be in you,” and they received the indwelling of the Spirit.

Joh 20:23 *If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain (holding on) the sins of any, they are retained (clinging to you)."*

- **What is Jesus saying, what does He mean when He said, *If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained?*** When I meet a person who has been hassled by Satan because he has sought to convince them that they are still guilty before God, and I ask them if they believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and they answer in the affirmative; do you believe that He died for your sins? Yes! Do you believe He rose again? Yes! Do you believe it with all your heart? Yes! Have you asked Jesus to forgive you, your sins and be the Lord of your life? Yes! Well then I say unto them, then, your sins are forgiven. I speak to them a word of faith. Upon the basis of their confession that Jesus is the Lord and their belief that God has raised Him from the dead, I declare to them, Your sins are forgiven. Not that I have forgiven them, but I am just declaring to them what God’s word has to say!
- **We do not have the power to forgive any sin! We have not been given the authority to forgive anybody’s sins or to send their sentence away.** This is just telling us we are sent. We are ambassadors. We have the Holy Spirit. Whenever we encounter someone who has asked Christ for forgiveness, believing in Him with authority. We can say to them, your sins have been sent away! They are dismissed! We have the authority to confirm it and we dare not say anything else; that you also need to do this or that! No, no, no! The authority we have is to say it has been done! On the cross, Jesus said It is finished, not mostly finished, not almost finished. It is finished! It is paid in full! We have the authority to say that because sometimes Christians sin. They struggle and mess up. I did this, I messed up. We can say that, look, you know, you go to the Lord first. John tells us (*1Jn 1:9*) *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* Repent, of your sin to Him, confess. But your sins are forgiven. They have been sent away. They have been dismissed
- **We also have the authority, and I believe, a responsibility to say to the individual who refuses His forgiveness,** refusing to believe, that their sins are retained, which means to hold on with strength. That person cannot get away from them. Now, that person is not free. They are actually in bondage! The person who does that is not free. Their sins are clinging to them permanently. We need to say to those folks, and we dare not say less.! You are in your sin. We are not to give them an excuse or some friendly social gospel thing. Tell them, (*Joh 3:16,18*) *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. [18] "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

- **Here is the truth. God loves you. He has given authority to believers to tell you.** That if you will accept Jesus as your Savior, if you will repent of your sins. All of those sins will be sent away, that God will remember no more!

Jesus and Thomas - Seeing and Believing! – (vs. 24-29)

Joh 20:24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

Joh 20:25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

- **His was a confession of unbelief.** Until I can see it for myself. Thomas is a very practical sort. When Jesus was down at the Jordan river and got the news that Lazarus was sick and He stayed around the Jordan for a couple of days and then said, Let us go on up to Lazarus. They started talking a little bit about it and Jesus said, He is sleeping. One of them said, That's good sign, if he is sleeping, he probably getting better." Jesus said, No, he died. I am glad for your sake that I was not there. Now, let us go on up that I might awaken him from his sleep. The disciples said, Lord, the last time You were there they tried to kill You. But Jesus was going, so Thomas said, Okay, let us go and die with Him. He was at least willing to put his life on the line. If you go, Lord, I am going with you. He was willing to put his life on the line.
- **Later Jesus said to His disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for them.** That where He was there they might be also. He said, If I go I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there you may be also. Where I am going, you know, and the way, you know. Here's old straight Thomas, the other disciples were going, Yeah, yeah. But Thomas said, Hey Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way? So here he is again, I do not believe it. I will not believe it until I can see for myself.
- **There is the cost of unbelief! It cost Thomas eight days.** Coming out of Egypt, the unbelief of the Israelites cost them 40 years in the wilderness! Unbelief can make you miserable! It can leave you in the pit. Here the other disciples are all rejoicing! They are excited, thrilled, happy! They are just, Oh yes! And here's Thomas going around, It is over, man. Unbelief! It keeps you in the depths of despair when you should be rejoicing. God has done a work! You should be rejoicing! But unbelief will keep you in that despondent state even though God has already worked.

Joh 20:26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut (for fear of the Jews), and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

- **First time he says peace be unto you. It says they are terrified.** He appears they are terrified, and it says he shows them his hands and His feet. And it says then were they glad when they perceived that it was the Lord? And the *peace to you*, There is peace with God.
- **Peace to you. This was no vain repetition, but significant of the abundant and assured peace** which Christ gives, and of the continuance of His blessings upon His people, for they *fail not*, but are *new every morning*, new every morning! **Here is the peace of God!**

Joh 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

- **This is interesting to me. I believe that for forty days Jesus appeared to them in various places, on various occasions, in different ways,** I believe that He was wanting to get them accustomed to the fact that He was there with them even though they did not see Him! He had said, "**(Mat 28:20b)** *lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.* In **(Mat 18:20)** *For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them!* He taught that He would be present with them. But He was seeking to get them used to the fact that He was present with them even though they did not see Him. So when He appeared on the second Sunday and Thomas was there; immediately He just said, *Peace to you. He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.* Where was Jesus when earlier Thomas was saying, Unless I can do that I will not believe? He was right there and He heard it. He heard his expressions of unbelief and doubt!
- **It is extremely important for us to develop the consciousness of the presence of Jesus, though we do not see Him.** I believe that Jesus is here tonight. Two or three of us are gathered together. He is here with us tonight. I believe that. I do believe that when we come into the consciousness that Jesus is here. Jesus is

with me, which is probably one of the greatest incentives to holy living that we will ever have! The Lord is here! That is the greatest thing to inspire faith. You say if I could just see Him. That is what Thomas was saying. I need to see.

Joh 20:28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

- **Here again is one of those places where Jesus is called God.** In (*Joh 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 nothing was made that was made.* So John calls Him God in the beginning of the book.
- **Here Thomas says, "My Lord and my God."** In Hebrews chapter one, as the author of the book of Hebrews is introducing to them the person of Jesus Christ, (*Heb 1:5-8*) *For to which of the angels did He ever say: "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again: "I WILL BE TO HIM A FATHER, AND HE SHALL BE TO ME A SON"? [6] But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM." [7] And of the angels He says: "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS SPIRITS AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE." [8] But to the Son He says: "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER; A SCEPTER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTER OF YOUR KINGDOM. If God calls Him God, that is good enough for me!*

Joh 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- **Peter in writing his epistle said, (*1Pe 1:8*)** *whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory!* The old Missouri adage is, Show me! Seeing is believing. But Jesus said, "If you can believe, you will see." Believing is seeing. If you can believe, you will see the glory of God.

The Purpose of This Book - That You May Believe! - (vs. 30-31)!

Joh 20:30 And (continuing right on from verse 29) truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

- **Jesus did a lot of other things.** In the next chapter he will say, If all of the things that Jesus did were recorded, all of the things were written about Him which could be written, he said, all of the libraries in the world could not hold the books! So John is saying that he has, first of all, been selective. He did not record everything Jesus did. Out of the many, many, many things that Jesus did, John was selective and he chose certain things, certain signs. As you go through the Gospel of John, there are seven signs that John brings out of what Jesus did. He did a lot of others but these seven John chose. He chose them with a purpose.
- **The purpose of his writing this Gospel was to convince people that Jesus is the Messiah in order that they might believe that He is the Messiah and thus have life, the life of Christ, life through Him.** We read in (*Isa 55:10-11*) *"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, [11] So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

Joh 20:31 but (in contrast to the many miracles, John has seven signs! A divine incompleteness of Scripture!) these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

- **What is the purpose of the gospel of John? But these are written for a reason! That you may believe!** It is always wise to encourage a person to read the gospel of John who does not believe in Jesus Christ. If you can just get them to read, challenge them! Get them to read the gospel of John. Because God said, *But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it!* If this Gospel was sent to cause a person to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, that by believing that they might have life through His Name, then it is a great book to get people to read!
- **It is tragic that so many people have such completely biased prejudice against Jesus without ever knowing Him** or really knowing about Him except from enemies of Jesus. All they know is what they have heard others say and they begin to parrot what others have said. Like when Pilate said, Are you the king of the Jews? Jesus said, You ask this of yourself, or are you just parroting what you have heard others say

(*John 18:33,34*)? There are a lot of people whose unbelief is based upon negative things that they have heard about Jesus but they have never read as much as the gospel of John! It is really wrong to have an opinion on something before you really examine the facts! It is foolish to have an opinion on an issue that is important as your eternal salvation without truly giving an honest examination of the facts!

- **If you have personally thoroughly examined it and you say, Well, I still do not believe it, then I say, I respect your right to have an opinion.**” But if you have an opinion without really looking at the evidence, then I do not respect that at all! I do not respect your opinion.
- **It is so good to get people to read the gospel of John.** If that is all of the Bible they ever read, that is important and that is probably the most important book for an unbeliever to read! They are always interested in the beast and the horns and everything else and they turn to the book of Revelations, then they say, You cannot understand the Bible.
- **But encourage them to read the gospel of John!** Read it and then let us discuss it. The entrance of the word so often just brings light! God’s word will not return void! So John does write with a definite, slanted view and with a definite purpose in mind, convincing people that Jesus is the Messiah that by their believing that, they can have eternal life through His name!

SUMMARY:

- **The Empty Tomb! The Resurrection!** [8] *Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.* [9] *For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.*
- **Mary Magdalene Sees The Risen Lord!** [16, 17] *“Mary! – Do not cling to Me, but go and tell My brethren”*
- **The Apostles Commissioned and Empowered!** [21] *So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”* [22] *And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.*
- **Seeing and Believing!** [29] *“Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*
- **That You May Believe!** [31] *but these (signs) are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*
- **The Resurrection – He is not here! He is risen indeed! (1Co 15:19-22)** *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.* [20] *But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.* [21] *For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.* [22] *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive!*
- **O Praise the Name of the Lord our God!**

CLOSING SONG:

O PRAISE THE NAME (ANÁSTASIS -RESURRECTION) (3:36/3:49) Hillsong

*I cast my mind to Calvary Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet, My Saviour on that cursed tree
His body bound and drenched in tears, They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone, Messiah still and all alone
(Refrain) O praise the name of the Lord our God O praise His name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise Oh Lord, oh Lord our God
And then on the third at break of dawn, The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting? The angels roar for Christ the King (Refrain)
He shall return in robes of white The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints, My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face (Refrain)
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God, Oh Lord, oh Lord our God*

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and study John Chapter 21!