



The Resurrection CHANGES EVERYTHING

The Resurrection Changes Everything!

Key idea:

The physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead changes everything, and His followers gather each week to remember His resurrection and then take the Good News forth to everyone.

Key text:

John 20:19–29

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴ Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Key points:

1. After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus appeared to His disciples on successive Sundays, and each meeting is reported in virtually identical terms.

2. The resurrection appearances of Jesus in John 20:19-29 and in Luke 24:33-49 contain seven items:
 - a. They happened on Sunday, the first day of the week.
 - b. The disciples were meeting behind locked doors.
 - c. Jesus suddenly appeared in the midst of His gathered disciples.
 - d. Jesus pronounced a blessing of peace on His gathered disciples.
 - e. Jesus proved He had been literally, physically, bodily raised.
 - f. The disciples respond to knowing Jesus had been resurrected with joy and worship.
 - g. Jesus sends the gathered disciples forth on mission to take the Gospel to all the world.
3. Jesus' physical, bodily resurrection changed the common understanding of life after death, showing that humans will be raised with their bodies and not as mere spirits.
4. The early church made the massive change of worship from Saturday to Sunday because of the resurrection of Jesus on Sunday. In essence, every Sunday is remembrance and celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.
5. Christians are people of the "eighth day", meaning that they are already part of the new creation. The resurrection has fundamentally changed our existence and brought us into the new creation.
6. The resurrection of Jesus changed the disciples from confusion and fear to a powerful group on mission.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Why do I think John reported the two meetings with the disciples in John 20 in almost identical terms? What is he communicating by the almost identical terms he uses?
3. When I read John 20 and Luke 24, how quick are the disciples to believe that Jesus has been resurrected? Did they believe the report of the women at first, or did they seem to doubt them? When Jesus appears to them do they believe it is really Him at first? Why do they seem to be so slow to believe Jesus has actually been resurrected?
4. Why were the disciples hiding behind locked doors? What are the dominant emotions that seem to characterize them prior to Jesus' appearance to them? Why does John want me to understand this?

5. Why does Jesus give proofs of His physical nature to the disciples in each of these appearances? Why is it important that Jesus' resurrection was physical and not just 'spiritual'?
6. Why does Jesus speak of mission in these post-resurrection appearances? Does this seem unrealistic given that He is speaking to a small band of disciples huddling in fear behind locked doors? What does this emphasis tell me about God's call for me, even in difficult times like we are experiencing right now?
7. The early church loved to speak of the "eighth day" as being the day of the resurrection and the beginning of the new creation. How does John 20:22 (where Jesus breathes on the disciples and gives them the Holy Spirit) point to this idea of the new creation? Does it remind you of anything in the original creation account in Genesis 2? What does this teach me about the new creation and my place in it as a Christian?
8. How can I live in the power of Jesus' resurrection this week? What practical steps can I take to remind me that my identity and destiny are found in the new creation rather than this passing age?
9. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to call?