

Theme: 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.

I. Intro - COVID Changed A Lot!

- A. We are struggling to regain many rhythms since COVID
- B. Schools - absenteeism is way up to this day
- C. Many restaurants, businesses, and churches did not survive COVID and its aftermath
- D. But many things were virtually untouched by COVID
- E. But Jesus' resurrection really did change everything!
- F. It massively changed all of our worship and our life

II. Parallel Meetings

- A. The resurrected Jesus meets with His disciples
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." John 20:19–23
 - 1. First day of the week - Sunday (the Lord's Day)
 - 2. Disciples meet together behind locked doors
 - 3. Jesus appears among them
 - 4. Jesus pronounces the blessing of peace

- 5. Jesus shows His hands and side - He has been literally, physically raised from the dead
- 6. The disciples are filled with joy at the Resurrection of Jesus
- 7. Jesus speaks of the message of the Gospel going forth
- 8. (NOTE: Thomas was not with them - vv24-25)

B. The resurrected Jesus meets with Thomas

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." John 20:26–29

- 1. A week later - the next Sunday
- 2. The disciples are meeting behind locked doors
- 3. Jesus appears among them
- 4. Jesus pronounces the blessing of peace
- 5. Jesus shows His hands and side - He has been literally, physically raised from the dead
- 6. Thomas responds in worship of Jesus - My Lord and my God!
- 7. Jesus speaks of the message going forth and people believing without seeing

C. Luke's account in Luke 24 has the same key themes

1. The first day of the week - Sunday (Lord's Day)
2. The disciples are all meeting together (v33)
They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together Luke 24:33
3. Jesus appears among them (v36)
While they were still talking about this, **Jesus himself stood among them and said to them**, "Peace be with you." Luke 24:36
4. Jesus pronounces the blessing of peace (v36)
While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "**Peace be with you.**" Luke 24:36
5. Jesus shows His wounds - He has been literally, physically raised from the dead
They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. Luke 24:37-40
6. Jesus speaks of the message going forth to all the world
He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:46-47

III. Jesus' Resurrection Changes Everything!

- A. Jesus's Resurrection changed our understanding of life after death
 1. Jesus was literally, physically, bodily raised
 2. This is the universal teaching of the New Testament
 3. The Greeks had thought of a "spiritual" life without the body after death
 4. Jesus' resurrection shows that eternal life is in the body - not some ethereal spiritual state
 5. God made humans body and spirit - and we will be so throughout all eternity
 6. This message rocked the world - the is true life after death
- B. Worship changed from Saturday to Sunday
 1. Every post-resurrection appearance that we are told when it happened was on a Sunday
 2. The disciples are gathered and Jesus comes among them
 3. In Luke 24 Jesus preaches the Word and breaks the bread - worship
 4. In John 20 Thomas worships Jesus as God
 5. Despite the long tradition of the Sabbath, the church shifted worship to Sunday, the Lord's Day
On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. Acts 20:7

- a. First day of the week (Sunday), break bread, Word
- b. This is the church gathered for worship

Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

- a. First day of the week (Sunday), offerings
- b. The same way it is done in Galatia

On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, Revelation 1:10

6. The earliest Christian writings after the NT make much of this new day for worship

If, therefore, those who were brought up in the ancient order of things have come to the possession of a new hope, **no longer observing the Sabbath, but living in the observance of the Lord's Day, on which also our life has sprung up again by Him and by His death** (Ignatius to the Magnesians)

- a. No longer the Sabbath but the Lord's Day
- b. Jesus was raised on Sunday, so we gather to remember His resurrection on Sunday

But Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Savior on the same day rose from the dead. For He was crucified on the day before that of Saturn (Saturday); and on the day after that of Saturn, which is the day of the Sun, having appeared to His apostles and disciples, He taught them these things, which we have submitted to you also for your consideration. (Justin Martyr)

- c. We meet on Sunday, the day Jesus was raised
- d. We meet on Sunday, the day Jesus met with the disciples after His resurrection

7. Christians are people of the "eighth day"

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them... John 20:26 NIV

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. (John 20:26 - ESV)

- e. Literally "after eight days" - the eighth day
- f. By Jewish reckoning, this is the next Sunday
- g. Christians loved to speak of the eighth day

To the end, for the eighth day," on which our life both sprang up again, and the victory over death was obtained in Christ... (Ignatius, To the Magnesians)

Your present Sabbaths are not acceptable to Me, but that is which I have made, [namely this,] when, giving rest to all things, I shall make a beginning of the eighth day, that is, a beginning of another world. Wherefore, also, we keep the eighth day with joyfulness, the day also on which Jesus rose again from the dead. (Epistle of Barnabas)

- 1. The eighth day is Sunday, the Lord's Day
- 2. The eighth day is the day Jesus rose from the dead
- 3. The eighth day is the beginning of the new creation

8. Christians began meeting on Sunday each week to remember and celebrate the resurrection because in the resurrection the new creation had begun.

9. The resurrection has fundamentally changed who we are - we are people of the eighth day, people of the new creation!

10. Each worship gathering reminds us of this reality so that we live as people of the new creation!

C. The Resurrection changed the disciples from confusion and fear to mission

1. The disciples were confused and afraid
2. They did not understand what had happened
3. They were huddling behind closed doors in fear
4. But when the Resurrected Jesus came to them, they worshipped Him, they were filled with joy, and they were sent out on mission!
5. The disciples were hiding hoping no one would find them but the resurrected Jesus sent them out on mission to reach the very people they had feared!
6. The same thing happens each week as we gather: the Resurrected Jesus meets with us, speaks His Word of blessing and peace, fills us with His Spirit, and sends us forth on mission!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do I believe that Jesus has truly been raised, conquering death forever?

1. If you have never believed this, neither did the disciples!
2. They were not gullible - Jesus had to prove His resurrection to them
3. He appeared to over 500 people to show He was alive!
4. There is NO other rational explanation for the empty tomb!

5. There is NO other rational explanation for the change in the disciples!

6. Do you believe Jesus has been raised?

7. Believe today and be saved! (Romans 10:9-10)

B. Do I live in the 'eighth day'?

1. Christian, everything in your life has changed!
2. Jesus is Risen and He meets with you each week!
3. Jesus is Risen and you need no longer fear!
4. Jesus is Risen and conquered every enemy, including death! Do not fear anything!
5. Jesus is Risen & speaks God's blessing on you!
6. Jesus is Risen and filled you with the Holy Spirit!
7. Jesus is Risen and we are people of the 'eighth' day, people of the new creation!
8. Jesus is Risen and sends you on mission!
9. Jesus is Risen and this changes everything!

C. The Table of the New Creation

1. At this Table, the Risen Lord feeds us!
2. At this Table, we taste the reality of the new creation
3. At this Table, we look to the new heavens and new earth in all their glory!
4. Come and receive from Jesus!

The Resurrection Changes Everything!

John 20:19-29

April 7, 2024

Communion

Ephesians 1:17-21

Teaching keywords: Resurrection; Sabbath; worship; Christian life; evangelism and missions; new creation

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better, having the eyes of your heart enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:17–21

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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.”

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