

Thursday

Please read John 20:24-29 and Luke 24:38-48. We all struggle with doubts at times. Maybe you don't doubt that Jesus rose from the dead, but you doubt that he will be good to you, or that he can make a difference in your life right now. What did you learn about Jesus' response to doubt in these verses? How does this help you in your struggle with doubt? Honestly evaluate your doubts right now. What evidence(s) has God given you that you sometimes choose to ignore? *Thank God that he isn't threatened by your doubts! Thank him for the truth of his Word—the Bible. Ask him to help you see the evidence he puts around you to help you overcome your doubts.*

Friday

Please read John 21:1-19. Earlier, what did Peter do when Jesus was on trial? How times did he do this? How many times did Jesus reinstate Peter? Why do you think this is significant? What can you learn from this story about Christ's attitude toward you after you've failed? How is this different from the way we might expect God to act toward us after our failures? *Thank God today for his grace! Ask him to forgive you and reinstate you if you have failed him!*

Saturday

Please read Genesis 12 to prepare yourself for tomorrow's message. *Today, spend some time meditating on God's goodness. Spend time quietly being with the risen, living and active Christ! Pray that you will worship God with your entire being—heart, soul, mind, and strength. Pray that both services will be pleasing offerings of worship to our great God.*

If You Want More Information:

The Case for Christ—A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus by Lee Strobel

The Case for Faith—A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity by Lee Strobel

Looking at the Life of Jesus by Rebecca Manley Pippert

More Than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell

Evidence That Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell

I'm Glad You Asked by Kenneth Boa and Larry Moody

Jesus and the Victory of God by N.T. Wright



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Meeting God

Message by Rick McRostie on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019

When people meet the risen Christ, they discover:

1. He _____

"...Mary stood outside the tomb crying...

'Woman,' he said, 'why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.'

Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'"

John 20:11, 15-16a

Jesus says to me _____

"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

2. He _____

"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!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord."

John 20:19-20

Jesus says to me: _____

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:27

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

3. He _____

“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, **I am sending you.**’ And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”
John 20:21

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”
Mark 12:30-31

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”
Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus says to me _____

4. He _____

“The third time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ He said, ‘Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘**Feed my sheep.**’”
John 21:17

Jesus says to me _____

“Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”
Romans 6:4

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.”
Ephesians 1:7-8

The bottom line:

What he did _____

he will do _____!

“I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT)

Daily Meditations

Daily Bible studies and questions related to Sunday’s message.

Suggested memory verse for the week:

*“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, I am sending you.’”
John 20:21*

Monday

Please read John 20:1-18. From Sunday’s message you heard about Mary Magdalene’s background: a woman without a family and a woman with a difficult past. Her situation may be far from your experiences, but do you find that you relate to her in any way? What do you find significant about Jesus’ response to her? How does it make you feel to know that Jesus knows everything about you and he calls you by name?

Today pray to God with this truth in mind: he knows me by name and knows me better than I know myself! Thank him for this! Ask him to help you experience his presence with you at all times!

Tuesday

Please read John 20:19-20. Why were Jesus’ followers afraid? Why were the doors locked? Does the locked door deter Jesus? In what ways does Jesus come through locked doors in our world today?

What fears do you struggle with?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The future | <input type="checkbox"/> War/terrorism | <input type="checkbox"/> Violence in our society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My health | <input type="checkbox"/> My children’s future | <input type="checkbox"/> The economy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My own sin | <input type="checkbox"/> Death | <input type="checkbox"/> My finances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accidents | <input type="checkbox"/> Job uncertainty | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

What would Jesus say to you about your fears today? Read Philippians 4:6-7. *Bring each of your specific fears to God right now in prayer. Ask to receive his peace! Ask him to help you see with fresh eyes his promise of resurrection!*

Wednesday

Please read John 20:21-23. Jesus now gives his followers an assignment or mission. In fact, each time the risen Lord appears to his followers, he gives them a life mission. How does he describe their new mission here? Christ’s words about forgiveness in verse 23 are somewhat confusing at first, but put them in the context of everything else he taught and modeled—even telling us to forgive our enemies! Is there anyone that Jesus says we should not forgive? So what is he saying to his followers here about a primary part of their mission? Followers of Jesus believe Christ’s words to his disciples apply to today. In your own words, what does God send you into the world to do?

Thank God that he not only forgives your past, but gives you a reason for living today! Ask him to help you live with that sense of purpose.