

# From Faithless to Faithful: Three Encounters with the Risen Christ

John 20:11-31

# Without the Resurrection...

- No hope for those who have died
- Our faith is worthless
- We have no hope beyond death
- Christians are most to be pitied

# Evidences of the Resurrection

- The Empty Tomb
- The Grave Clothes
- The Roman Guard
- The Actions of Jesus' Followers

# Saturday Morning

**Matthew 27:65** Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go, make it *as* secure as you know how.” **66** And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

# Saturday Morning

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

# The Encounter of Mary Magdalene

**John 20:11** But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping;

# Mary Magdalene

- Not a prostitute or Jesus' wife
- Jesus cast out 7 demons (Luke 8:2)
- Present at the crucifixion
- First at Jesus' tomb
- First to see the risen Christ

# The Encounter of Mary Magdalene

**John 20:11b** and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; **12** and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.



# The Encounter of Mary Magdalene

**John 20:13** And 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.”

# The Encounter of Mary Magdalene

**John 20:14** When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus.

**15** Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”

# The Encounter of Mary Magdalene

**John 20:16** Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher).

**John 20:17** Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’”

# The Encounter of Mary Magdalene

**Q.** Prior to this encounter, was Mary full of joy? Full of faith?

**Q.** What changed? What turned Mary's tears to joy?

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**John 20:18** Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and *that* He had said these things to her.

**John 20:19** So when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews,

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**John 20:19b** Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace *be* with you.”

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**Luke 24:36** While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be to you.” **37** But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. **38** And He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**Luke 24:39** “See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” **40** And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.



# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**Luke 24:41** While they still could not believe *it* because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”  
**42** They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; **43** and He took it and ate *it* before them.

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**John 20:20** And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

When Jesus showed them the wounds in His hands and in His side, and when He ate with them, they knew that He was no spirit, but the Risen Christ and it changed them forever.

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**1 John 1:1-2** What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life.

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**Acts 4:20** “we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

This transformation of the Apostles from fearful to courageous, from faithless to faithful to the end is proof of the Resurrection and a demonstration of its power.

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**John 20:21** So Jesus said to them again, “Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**Luke 19:10** “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

**1 John 4:14** We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.



Everything Christ did from the moment of His birth until His death and Resurrection was for the purpose of fulfilling His mission of saving the world. Now, we have that mission. God does the work, but we deliver the message and we make the Gospel credible through our testimony. That task was first given to the Apostles and now to us.

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

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

**Acts 1:8** but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**John 20:23** “If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained.”

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**Q.** If no one but God can forgive sin, what did Jesus mean, “If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them”?

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**Acts 10:43** “Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**Luke 24:46-48** and He said to them,  
“Thus it is written, that the Christ would  
suffer and rise again from the dead the  
third day, and that repentance for  
forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed  
in His name to all the nations,  
beginning from Jerusalem. “You are  
witnesses of these things.

Forgiveness of sins comes through faith in Christ. We're just the messengers. However, as His representatives, the Apostles, and even we ourselves, can rightly say to those who believe the Gospel, "Your sins are forgiven," or to those who do not believe, "Your sins are not forgiven," because that's what God Word says.

# The Encounter of the Ten Apostles

**John 20:24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”



# The Encounter of Thomas

**John 20:26** After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace *be* with you.” **27** Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” **28** Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

# The Encounter of Thomas

The Apostles were not men who were inclined to believe in Christ against all reason. They were men who were as naturally skeptical as many others, but God opened their eyes and revealed Himself to them in such a way through the risen Christ that they had no choice but to believe.

# The Encounter of Thomas

**John 20:29** Jesus said to him,  
“Because you have seen Me, have you  
believed? Blessed *are* they who did  
not see, and *yet* believed.”

The God who said, “Mary!” and  
opened her eyes is the same  
God who opens our eyes.

# The Encounter of Thomas

**1 Peter 1:8-9** and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

**John 20:30** Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.