

Title: EXPERIENCING THE RESURRECTION, JOHN 20:19-31.
(Chatham, NJ; 04/10/10, AM) [Ps – Two-Point Outline with Then and Now Sub-Outline)

Theme: If we can experience the same joy that the disciples experienced after the Resurrection, following him might just become a joy as well.

Purpose: To imagine ourselves in the group that saw Jesus and to incorporate his words into our lives as they did.

Introduction:

1. We seek today not to assume a detached air about the resurrection event.
2. Let's put ourselves in the room where the disciples experienced the risen Lord.
3. Think about what you feel, about what he says, and about what happens next.

I. The Disciples React to Jesus' Appearance, John 20:19-31.

- A. They were glad, verse 20.
 1. What an understatement!
 2. Is it me or is this not enough to fully explain the reaction?
 3. Luke 24:36-43 is more explicit: startled, frightened, doubtful, joy, and marveling.
 4. Jesus eats and talks with them.
 5. What were you feeling when you saw him? Was it hard to believe?
 6. What is your reaction now? Even after many years, do you maintain the same faith and assurance that Jesus has been raised from the dead?
 7. Is it still fresh and new each time you think about it? Does it propel your life in a positive direction?
- B. One disciple was absent, Thomas. (Where was he that day?)
 1. If we understand Luke sufficiently, then his doubts aren't all that different from the doubts that some had when they first saw him.
 2. Thomas wants the same proof.
 3. We are a little bewildered that the testimony of all his friends was not enough to convince him.
 4. Is this you? What does it take to give you faith?
 5. Thomas reacts with what turns out to be the third clear profession of faith in the Gospels: Peter's is the first (Mt. 16) and Martha's is the second (John 11).
 6. He says, "My Lord and my God."
 7. I can't help but imagine that he fell on his knees when he said it.
 8. Do you feel the same sense of awe when you think of approaching Jesus?
 9. It is the one reaction that will characterize everyone (good or evil) in the coming age, Philippians 2:9-11.
 10. Better to come to that faith now than wait until you are forced to do so.

II. The Messages in the Experience.

- A. Peace.
 1. On both occasions Jesus greets them, "Peace be with you."
 2. The angels announced peace to the world at his birth as well.
 3. Paul can speak of the peace that passes understanding ruling our hearts, Phil. 4:7.
 4. Can you live with that?

B. Faith.

1. On many levels this is about faith.
2. First, it is about the faith of the disciples and Thomas.
3. Second, it is about the faith that comes from seeing the signs in John's Gospel.
4. He wants people to believe, 30-31.
5. Do you believe and will you continue faithfully?

C. Life.

1. All Jesus' roads lead to everlasting life.
2. By believing we have life in his name.
3. Though we die, we will live again at the resurrection, John 11:25-26.
4. The hope of life after death has become a certainty.
5. We need no longer be held in fear of death, Hebrews 2:14-15.

Conclusion:

1. We are sent, John 20:21.
2. We go in order to offer forgiveness, verse 23.
3. He is our peace and our life.
4. This was the experience of the disciples; it is ours today as well.