

Easter Sunday Celebration

PP1 Alive and Walking.

Part 1

John 20:10-18 (NIV2011)

PP2 10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

What do you mean they went back to where they were staying. Didn't this have an impact on them????

Yeh it did, but processing it would have been a bit tricky.

Let's be real, people disappearing from grave sights isn't something that would have happened regularly. A dozen scenarios would have been going through their minds.

PP3 a. Did someone steal the body

PP4 b. That was the tomb we put him in wasn't it?

Pp5 c. The rotten romans – always trying to give us a hard time.

Pp6 d. Jesus was actually alive. Somehow He woke up, pushed a 2 ton rock out of the way, unwrapped himself and went for a morning stroll.

No wonder they went back for breakfast!

PP7 11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb

12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

Now this is weird. She is so distressed that she doesn't freak out at seeing the angels. Normally, people freak a bit at seeing angels although she coped with the angel telling her about Jesus birth ok. So maybe it was just not a new thing for her. Kind of like "oh more angels" (Shrugs shoulders)

PP8 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, "Woman, 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."

This level of distress is seen in her inability to recognise Jesus. But look at Jesus care here. I wonder if Jesus had half a smile on His face. But the gentleness of the question. Who are you looking for? He knows, She's looking for Him, but as Jesus always is, even with us now, He cares enough to allow us to articulate our thoughts and concerns. Prayer is like that. Jesus knows, but He wants us to say it. The care continues.

PP9 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Now the bible doesn't give us the tone of voice.

Did Jesus say quietly "Mary"

Did Jesus say it with a mild sarcasm " Mary"

Did Jesus say it with a firm questioning look to accompany it. “Mary”

We don’t know, but what we do know is that she instantly clicks out of whatever confusion and into recognition. So much so she wants to hug Him!!!

PP10¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ”

Here is something interesting. The first thing that Jesus tells someone to do after His resurrection is to tell others about Him. The first thing. IS it the primary thing in Jesus agenda for our lives. Is that what the Easter story is for – so we can tell others of Jesus story. What do we do with this easter message. Mary did as she was asked.

PP11¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

She went and told the disciples **PP12** “I have seen the Lord!”

Part 2

What happened after that previous story isn’t recorded much. It does say in Luke that the disciples didn’t believe the resurrection story.

PP13 Luke 24:11 (NIV2011)

¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

Peter went for a run and had a look.

PP14 Luke 24:12 (NIV2011)

¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

But really we don’t get much info. But John tells us this

John 20:19-23

PP15 John 20:19-23 (NIV2011)

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

Wo hang on – dead man walking!!! And that isn’t a metaphor, He is supposed to be dead but here He is.

What's the reaction???

Again the bible doesn't give us a visual description on this.

If it had been me. I would have reacted with mouth open, jaw on the floor, eye bogging out!!!

Pp16²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Now here is a thing. The greek word for over joyed or glad is chairō

A primary verb; to be full of "cheer", and apparently it has the sense that that cheer is expressed. So they were cheering. It was instantaneous out loud spontaneous worship. Yeh.

Pp17²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Here is another freaky thing. In the first comments that Jesus has with His disciples after His resurrection. What are his comments. **Pp18 As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."**

It is about sending people to do God stuff. His work, tell the story.

So his message is consistent with Mary and the disciples. Tell the story.

Now what is next is a bit out there.

Pp19²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Hang on I thought they got the Spirit on the day of Pentecost 40 days after His ascension back to heaven. What's going on?

This verse has a few, actually a lot of differing views. That's ok. It keeps us thinking. One of the things I see happening in this verse is that Jesus is giving the disciples His permanent presence. That is what the Holy Spirit in our lives is, a God presence always with us. The Emmanuel of Christmas. He had been present with these guys for three years. That presence wasn't going to stop.

And

It is there for us too. God's presence for those who believe in Him, accept Him as Lord and Saviour.

Pp20²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

This is another tricky verse. One view is that Jesus is kind of commissioning them to continue what He did. Forgiving was one of His things. So He is saying - keep doing my work.

Part 3

John 20:24-31

The third portion of this passage is well known yet if we look at it outside of its familiarity we realise it is confronting.

^{PP21 24} Now Thomas (also known as 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.”

Basically, a lack of belief. A lack of faith. Thomas says he can't believe if it is outside of His understanding of how things happen.

His world view was all about personal experience. Even though he had seen Jesus miracles, this was just too far out there.

How do we react? IS the coming alive thing too much. Are there things about virgin births miracles and rising from the dead which just don't get through to us? For a lot of people yes. And truth be known, 92% of Christians doubt the historicity of the Jesus story at some stage in their Christian lives.

Why? Because it doesn't fit our world view.

So change your world view. That is what Jesus is saying to Thomas.

^{PP22 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.”

Jesus is saying “You can have faith in what you don't see. You can have faith in me.” Faith in Jesus works sight unseen. Faith in Jesus works 2000 years later, Faith in Jesus just works and yes, the world view of our culture doesn't accept it. But for us – change our world view

^{PP23 30} Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

You see these things are written so we believe. So we take it in, so it affects us. Easter happens for us to remember. Communion happens so we remember.