
SERMON NOTES April 25, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

John 20:24-31
Truth Beyond Reasonable Doubt
Pastor Mike

Opening Question; Why should we _____

We should believe because _____

I. Acknowledging the truth about _____

II. Examining the truth about _____

III. Exposing the truth about _____

IV. Understanding _____ of God's truth

a. Transformed by the _____ and _____ of the resurrection

Why does Jesus' resurrected body _____

b. Relating Jesus' resurrection power to _____

V. Applying God's truth to _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. In the beginning of his message Pastor Mike asked why followers of Jesus should believe in the resurrection. What are some of the answers you've heard people give to this question? Why is this such an important question to think through and answer?
2. Through history the disciple Thomas has been known as "doubting Thomas." It is interesting that other places in the Gospels (Mark 16:11, Luke 24:37) suggest that all of the disciples initially doubted when they heard about Jesus' resurrection, why do you think Thomas has been remembered for his doubt?
 - a. What do you think was behind Thomas' doubt? Do you think it was primarily intellectual or emotional? What is the relationship between our intellectual doubt and our emotional doubt?
 - b. What was behind Thomas' emotional doubt? What can we learn about ourselves from him example?
 - c. In his message Pastor Mike said that the vast majority of people who doubt or even reject Christianity do so for reasons that are at their root more emotional than intellectual. The intellectual arguments provide cover for the underlying emotional reasons. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
 - d. Are there unresolved issues in your life that cause you to doubt God and/or his word?
3. The Gospels tell us that after his resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples and showed them the wounds in his hands and side. We believe that our resurrected body will be glorified and perfected, so why does Jesus' resurrected body still have the wounds of his death?
4. When Jesus appeared to Thomas and invited him to touch his wounds, Jesus not only was inviting Thomas to see him, but at the same time Jesus was revealing how he saw Thomas – how he knew Thomas' words and thoughts
 - a. Do you think that Thomas was more impacted by seeing Jesus, or by realizing how deeply Jesus saw him? Explain your answer.
 - b. What does Thomas' story reveal about how Jesus sees you? How does reflecting on how Jesus sees you impact you?
5. After seeing Jesus, John 20:28 tells us that Thomas didn't just say that he believed Jesus rose from the grave, but he responded with the proclamation, "my Lord and my God." This is considered to be not only the climax of the Gospel of John, but also the greatest profession of faith in all the Gospels.
 - a. Why do you think this is considered the climax of John's Gospel? What about Thomas' profession of faith makes it so profound?
 - b. What does it mean to proclaim Jesus as, "my Lord and my God?" How can you know if you have truly proclaimed this to be the case in your life?