

More Than Meets the Eye - Part 8

The Wounds of Jesus

April 19, 2020

As we've been looking at the weeks leading up to Resurrection Sunday, we have been focusing on the journey that Jesus took on His way to the cross. In particular, we have examined events that should impact us and inspire us to grow deeper in our love for Jesus. We have seen that these events are "More Than Meets the Eye," continuing today with Jesus appearing to His disciples after His resurrection, showing them His wounds to prove He really is the risen Christ!

TODAY'S TRUTH Jesus Christ's journey to the cross was a path of obedience to the Father. As we follow His steps we see God's perfect plan to bring about the redemption of mankind. His resurrected body still bore the wounds from the crucifixion, which was proof to the disciples that He was truly the Lord returned from the grave! Now He sends us to do His work as the Father sent Him.

1. HE CONFIRMS HIS RESURRECTION John 20:20 "...He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord."
 - His Identity- John 20: 27-28, Revelation 5: 11-12
 - His Integrity- Luke 24:31, John 21:12
 - His Incorruptibility - 1 Cor. 15:50-52
2. HE COMMISSIONS HIS REPRESENTATIVES John 20:21 "So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'"
 - Witnesses (Martyrs)- Acts 1:8
 - Ambassadors - 2 Corinthians 5:20
3. HE COMMUNICATES HIS REDEMPTION John 20:23 "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
 - Reception- John 1: 12-13
 - Rejection - John 12:48

CONCLUSION

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Jesus showed Himself and His wounds to His disciples after His crucifixion to confirm that He had been resurrected! He had come into the world to fulfill His Father's purpose, and now expects His disciples to continue His work - "to speak His words (John 15:27), to do greater works than He had done (14:12), and to give their lives in His service." (Merrill Tenney). Have we accepted the calling?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

INTRO: How have you used your time as you've been sheltering in place? What changes have come about in your life, intentionally or non-intentionally?

1. John 20: 19 says "the doors were shut...for fear of the Jews." What were the disciples afraid of?
2. Of all the things Jesus must have said, why does John record "Peace be with you" three times?
3. As we saw with Mary (John 20: 15-16), and with the disciples on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13ff), why did they not immediately recognize Jesus?
4. Read John 20: 24-29. How does Jesus deal with Thomas' doubt? What is significant about the way Thomas responds? What did Jesus mean when He said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed?"
5. Do you think Jesus' other wounds were visible? (from the flogging, the crown of thorns, etc.). Why or why not?
6. What do you think our resurrected bodies will look like?
7. We know that the disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2: 1-4). What happened in this passage, that tells us Jesus breathed on the disciples and said "Receive the Holy Spirit."? W.E.Vine in his commentary says this: "Receive ye the Holy Spirit" referred not merely to His own breath, it was symbolic of the Holy Spirit as about to be sent at Pentecost. It was connected with their being sent out into the world, and with the effect of their ministry of the Gospel in the forgiveness of sins by the Spirit's power, or the retention of sins by the rejection of the message (vv. 23,24). It was a prophetic act as well as symbolic.
8. What does it mean to you to be sent by Jesus, as the Father sent Him?
9. Have you invited others to be a part of what God is doing at CrossRoads?