

WHEN THE ODDS ARE STACKED AGAINST YOU
Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide
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Without the Resurrection . . .

† 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, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be with you’” (NASB).

1. Biblical Principle #1: In our worst fears, we cannot _____ Jesus out (John 20:20).

- The word “rejoice” in John 20:20 is the Greek New Testament word [χαίρω; chairō]. This word is a _____ word and we know the origins of it.

2. Biblical Principle #2: Peace, rejoice and the Resurrection means that Jesus Christ was victorious in _____ over the grave, death and hell (vs. 20a-21).

† Luke 24:39-43, *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? ³⁹See 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. ⁴¹While 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; ⁴³and He took it and ate it before them” (NASB).*

- In Luke 24:40, “show” is the Greek new Testament word [δείκνυμι, deiknumi] and it means “to display.”

3. Biblical Principle #3: The Resurrection of Christ produced a _____ for all Christians. We are not meant to remain behind _____.

† 1 Corinthians 12:27, “Now you are Christ’s body . . .” (NASB)

† Jeremiah 2:13, “For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water” (NASB).

† John 4:10-14, “Jesus said to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.’¹¹ She said to Him, ‘Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? ¹²You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?’¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life’” (NASB).

4. Biblical Principle #4: When you and I decide not to personally make disciples, we have decided to _____ people to _____ (John 20:22).

† Genesis 2:7, “Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (NASB).

† Acts 1:8, “Jesus said, ‘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’” (NASB).

5. Biblical Principle #5: Every believer can individually go to God for forgiveness of sin and the restoration of fellowship with others. This is called the doctrine of the _____ of every _____.

† Hebrews 4:16, “Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time” (HCSB).

† 1 Peter 2:9, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (NASB).

What Did Jesus Mean In John 20:20?

- (a) _____ > No one can forgive sins but God (Matt. 9:2-3).
(b) _____ > there is not one instance in the New Testament of any of the Apostles giving themselves the authority to forgive sins (John 20:23).
(c) _____ > literally it reads, "Their sins have previously been forgiven them." "Forgiven" is in the perfect tense. It refers to a _____ action with existing _____ results.

6. Biblical Principle #6: Every time you share the Gospel and/or share your testimony, you are giving a person the terms by which their sins can be _____ by God (John 20:24).

† John 11:16. "Thomas said, "Let us also go, so that we may die with Him" (NASB).

7. Biblical Principle #7: When sorrow, grief and depression hit you, do not _____ yourself from the family and fellowship of God. Thomas' mistake was seeking _____ and not _____. (John 20:25-26).

- Jesus declared victory over two "D" words here: _____ and _____.

8. Biblical Principle #8: Jesus Christ is committed to turning failure into _____.
Jesus Christ is dedicated to turning doubt into _____ (John 20:28).

† Romans 8:35-39, "Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? . . . ³⁷No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. ³⁸And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (NLT).

Next Steps Devotional Guide

1. Many churches and even believers want to "lock" Jesus out. Why do you think they do this?
2. Since Jesus has victoriously won the battle over the grave, death and hell, why do you think even many believers have fears about these? Do you? If so, why?
3. The responsibility to make disciples is given by Jesus to all Christians. We have the Living Water to give them that will quench their spiritual thirst. Do you see yourself being sent by Jesus to make disciples? Why or why not?
4. Each believer can be a "priest" to another believer. Only God can forgive sins. But we can sin against each other. Is there anyone you need to forgive of their sin against you? How would you feel if others identified you by your worst or greatest sin every time they saw you (like "Thomas the Doubter")?
5. When you have sorrows, griefs and depression, do you isolate yourself or do you seek togetherness with other godly Christians?
6. By Jesus' Resurrection, He defeated two "D" words. What does that mean to you and why?
7. Jesus loves to turn failure into faithfulness and doubt into declaration of faithful sight. How had Jesus done this for you in the past? If someone is letting his/her failure define him/her, how would you help this person believe that Jesus can help them with this?