

## 2021.04.04 Easter Sunday Sermon <Power of the Resurrection>

### **John 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

### **John 20:15, 19, 27**

<sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

<sup>19</sup> 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!"

<sup>27</sup> 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."

**He is Risen! He is Risen!** Jesus Christ is alive and he is here with us today. Through today's sermon, let us look at who Jesus Christ met after His resurrection and provided strength and grace.

## **1. Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene - Grief to Joy**

### **John 20:15**

<sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

### **Luke 8:2**

<sup>2</sup> and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out;

### **Mark 15: 47- The Burial of Jesus**

<sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

As we look at today's scripture and other books from New Testaments, we know that Mary Magdalene was present during Jesus' death. After seeing what happened to Jesus, she fell into deep sadness. However, through Jesus' resurrection, her grief turned into Joy.

There are great sadness everywhere around the world, but the only way to overcome this sadness is through Jesus' and His strength.

### **Psalms 90:10**

<sup>10</sup> Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures;  
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

There was a mother (49 years old) with three children and just lost her husband. One of the deaconess came to her and said following - "I lost my husband when I was 44 years old. I had seven children to take care of. Look at them now...they have all grown-up." After hearing her story, the widow received strength to overcome her sadness. This same strength was provided to Mary from Jesus.

Just as He found Mary, He will find us when we are grieving. He will turn our sadness to joy and pour His strength to you.

## **2. Jesus Appears to His Disciples - Fear to Peace**

### **John 20: 19**

<sup>19</sup> 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!"

**John 14:27**

<sup>27</sup> *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

Young and old, men and women...we all have fears and only Jesus Christ can provide strength to change fear to peace.

Based on 3/31/2021 CNN's report, the early data showed the top leading causes of death in 2020 were:

- Heart disease
- Cancer
- Covid-19
- Unintentional injury
- Stroke

Past three weeks, there were total of 22 death due to shooting. We are also hearing about hate crimes against Asians. Just like the disciples, we are all living in fear due to Covid-19, hate crimes, job security, and future. We live in constant fear...only Jesus' resurrection can provide strength and peace.

There was a mother who lived in constant fear about death. Her son wanted to take his mother to church badly but she didn't want to hear about death in sermon. On Easter Sunday, the son heard the sermon and came back home to tell his mother about Jesus' resurrection. She saw joy and peace as he shared the sermon. When she heard her son's prayer, her fear about death disappeared.

My brothers and sisters, I pray the same peace and joy will be given to all of us.

**3. Jesus Appears to Thomas - Doubt to Belief****John 20: 27-28**

<sup>27</sup> *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."* <sup>28</sup> *Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"*

When we are faced with trouble, we start to doubt in God and Jesus. In latest researched, 42% of Americans believe in Jesus' resurrection (ten years ago, it was 77% of American believed in Jesus' resurrection). In addition, 76% believe in heaven but 50% of these people believe they can go to heaven without believing in Jesus.

**John 14:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

My brothers and sisters, do you believe in Jesus Christ? Do you believe He is our savior?

**John 11:25 - 26**

<sup>25</sup> *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;"* <sup>26</sup> *and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

**1 Corinthians 15**

Paul the Apostle wrote the earliest account of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus in the New Testament. The rest of the chapter stresses the primacy of the resurrection for Christianity.

Recently, I spoke with 90 year-old Elder who is suffering from heart disease. After being released from hospital he said, "I thank the Lord for making me live again. I thank the Lord even if He takes me to heaven." The Elder was mentally and spiritually ready to go to heaven. This is the most important thing in life... to believe in the Lord and Jesus Christ, and be fully prepared for life or death. May all of our doubts be changed to beliefs in our Lord and Jesus.

### In Summary:

Through the **Power of the Resurrection**, Jesus Christ changed...

- Grief to Joy
- Fear to Peace
- Doubt to Belief

Video from Joni and Friends - ***Written on His Hand*** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZ4P1hmv4sk>)

Joni Eareckson Tada (born October 15, 1949) is an evangelical Christian author, radio host, and founder of *Joni and Friends*, an organization "accelerating Christian ministry in the disability community." Tada lived a very active life all through her growing up years. She enjoyed riding horses, hiking, tennis, and swimming. On July 30, 1967, she dove into the Chesapeake Bay after misjudging the shallowness of the water. She suffered a fracture between the fourth and fifth cervical levels and became a quadriplegic, paralyzed from the shoulders down.

During Tada's two years of rehabilitation, according to her autobiography *Joni*, she experienced anger, depression, suicidal thoughts, and religious doubts. However, one of her friend shared following scripture.

***1 Thessalonians 5:18 - give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***

*"I now have a hope for the future. The Bible tells us that our bodies are "glorified" in heaven. It's time to dance with my feet after I die here. My fingers are shriveled and bent, my muscles are weakened, my knees are twisted, I have no sensation under my shoulders, and one day I will have a new body dressed in light, bright and dazzling. Can you imagine what hope this gives to a person with spinal injuries like me, to a patient with brain injury or a person with depression? No other religion or philosophy promises a new body process. Only in the Gospel of Christ's Resurrection can the wounded find this wonderful hope."*

During occupational therapy, she learned to paint with a brush between her teeth and began selling her artwork. She also writes this way, although for most writing tasks she relies on voice recognition software. To date, she has written over forty books, recorded several musical albums, starred in an autobiographical movie of her life, and is an advocate for people with disabilities.

*God has engraved you on the palms of his hands. Not just your name, but everything about you - your dreams, difficulties, weaknesses and pains. He has engaged all his power to sustain and relieve you. Trust the one who has written you on his hands. **Believe in Power of the Resurrection where He is able to change grieves, fears, and doubts around the world.***