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He Did It So You Can Believe

John Chapter 20:18-31
The Power of the Wounds



John 20

19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace *be* with you.” 20 When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Background: Mary has already seen and believes after she goes through the first 4 steps. She is sent on a mission of mercy to share the good news with others.

Observations and Comparison

- It happened that same day
 - In a bad and scary situation
 - Locked down and hiding out
 - Jesus shows up in the middle of their trouble
 - Jesus declares peace to them
 - Jesus shows them his wounds
 - They turn from sad to glad after they see his wounds
- Today could be your day
 - Are you in a bad situation?
 - Are you running from the past?
 - Jesus desires and can show up in your right now situation
 - Jesus wants you to have peace
 - He wants you to know recovery
 - He wants you to turn from sad and mad, to glad

Jesus' Testimony is Powerful

- They didn't believe until they saw what he went through for them
- They didn't rejoice until they realized he recovered
- He says they can have peace in that situation
- They rejoice and turn from sad to glad because:
 - Forgiven – for turning their back on him and leaving him behind
 - Realize the hope they thought was gone, was still there
 - Received an answer to their bad situation
 - Realized if Jesus can make it through, they can follow Him and recover
- Still in lock down, still got some real problems but Jesus is with them
- If Jesus is in the middle of your problem, you can rejoice and have peace....its going to be alright

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.”

He gives them peace again. Tells them this again to confirm.

Why? Because we can have peace one minute and forget or doubt if our situation doesn't change.

Process – He prepared them to receive the Holy Spirit (Step 4)

You can't do any great work for God unless it is through the power of the Holy Spirit (Step 5)

What does that last sentence mean?

When someone receives Christ, we can say with confidence, “Your sins are forgiven,” not because *we* forgave them, but because **Jesus did**. If someone **rejects** Christ, we can truthfully say, “Your sins remain,” because **without repentance, forgiveness hasn't been applied**.

²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.”

So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

They said they saw the Lord, in their place of confinement. They found:

- Peace
- Jesus
- The promise of the Holy Spirit
- A new assignment for the Kingdom and new hope

You Have Two Choices

- Thomas – Unbelief and Doubt
 - Didn't believe them
 - They still behind locked doors
 - If I don't see it myself, I ain't buying it
 - He didn't experience what they did
 - He may have been crushed by the cross and disappointed
 - Didn't understand the process

- Disciples – Belief and Trust
 - They experienced and saw Jesus
 - They received a word
 - They received forgiveness
 - They saw the holes
 - They saw themselves in the story
 - They received a promise and a new future

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” 27 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.”

Observations

Jesus just popping up. He didn't appear like that before.

- When you experience the Resurrection (Step 3), you can do some new things too.
- He doesn't have a problem showing up behind locked doors.
- Shows up to demonstrate his great love for Thomas....and for you.
- Shows up so that Thomas would believe.

Thomas believes because:

- Experienced the cross, grave, and resurrected Christ
- Believed that Jesus came back....for him.

There is a special blessing and level of happy to those who did see but believe.

I Don't Have to Be There to Believe It



I didn't see him in the manger, but I believe I'm born again.



I didn't see him turn the water into wine, but I believe my best days are in front of me.



I didn't see him heal the blind man, but he has opened my eyes, and my dark days are gone....now that I have him here inside.



I didn't see him raise Lazarus from the dead, but I believe he lifted me out of some dead situations.



I didn't walk with him back then, but I know he walks with me and talks with me along the way.



I didn't have to see it to believe it, it's called faith, by faith I call Him my Lord and my God....I'm so blessed!

Summary – Jump In the Story

- He still wants to show up in your scary situations and see about you.
- He wants you to know if he made it through, you can too.
- He wants you to have peace....today.
- He wants to give you hope and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- He wants to send you out to show your wounds to others so that they will see Jesus in you....and believe.
- He still wants to use you.....regardless of your past mistakes.

³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Today, you have a choice to make.

You can choose to believe that He loves you like that or not believe.

You can choose peace or stay worried.

You choose recovery or not.

You can choose to believe you need Jesus....or not.

Some of you feel like **you missed your moment**. You weren't there when others believed. But Jesus still comes **back for you**. He still says, "**Believe.**"

💡 If you have doubts—**bring them to Jesus**. He isn't afraid of your questions.

He just wants your heart.

Jesus didn't show off His miracles; He showed His wounds.

Why? Because faith isn't about what **you do**—it's about what **He already did...for You**.

Time to Chose....do you want to believe?