

Resurrection Life*John 20:19-31*

One positive of this pandemic is that it has caused many of us to think about life. We've thought about things we are missing and enjoy in life. We've thought about life itself and how precious it is. And some of us have thought about the quality of the life we are living. We all want a full, satisfying life, right? No one wants to merely exist. But how do we actually experience this type of life? Just wanting a full and satisfying life doesn't make it so. In this study we are going to consider a fascinating passage of Scripture that describes how a man named Thomas came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead. After he believed, Jesus spoke to him about the type of life that he and others could experience.

Opening Question: In what ways do you hope your life is different when this season of staying at home is over?

Read John 20:19-31

1. In Luke's gospel he notes that initially Jesus disciples were skeptical about the news of Jesus' resurrection (24:1-11). What experience did the disciples have that helped move them from unbelief to a belief that Jesus was resurrected?
2. What does Thomas ask for in order believe? How is he like other disciples?
3. What do you think Jesus means when he says, "Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed" (v. 29)?

Steve said:

It is important for us to acknowledge that we who live almost 2,000 years after the resurrection don't get the same irrefutable evidence that Thomas did. We aren't in a position to demand, "Unless I see His hands and touch His wounds, I'll never believe." That's simply not how we evaluate historical events. And so, what type of evidence is legitimate to "demand" or expect? Surely a person shouldn't believe that Jesus is risen from the dead simply because others believe that, right? If you ask around, you will find all sorts of contradictory things people believe about Jesus. What type of evidence do we have today?

4. What type of evidence DO we have today?

5. Was there ever a time in your spiritual journey where you needed evidence to become convinced that Jesus was who he said he was?

6. How does what John writes in vv. 30-31 relate to this question of how one becomes convinced today when it is not possible to physically see Jesus like the disciples did?

7. John says that life is the result of believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (v. 31). This is eternal life, which not only means life forever with God, but also a quality of life that we can experience here and now. In what ways have you experienced that quality of life now? Where do you need to experience more of this quality of life that Jesus offers?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted



Celebration – This is week seek to be mindful of the eternal life that Jesus has given you. Celebrate in your heart. Worship and thank him!



Share your story – Pray and look for opportunities this week to share your story of belief in the resurrected Jesus. Maybe you won't have the opportunity to share the whole gospel, but look for opportunities to speak of your faith in Jesus.