

BIBLE STUDY FOR APRIL 19, 2020
Second Sunday of Easter

The resurrection of Jesus -

Gives us great boldness – Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 NRSV

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say... ²²Jesus of Nazareth,^[b] a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— ²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death,^[c] because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;

moreover my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,

or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;

you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites,^[d] I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.

³¹Foreseeing this, David^[e] spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah,^[f] saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

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Verse 23 – “This man . . . you crucified and killed”

One of the greatest evidences of the reliability of the Biblical account of the resurrection of Jesus is the changed lives of the disciples

How does the reality of the resurrection of Jesus give you boldness and courage?

How does your changed life give evidence for the reliability of the Biblical account?

Gives us new life - 1 Peter 1: 3-9 NRSV

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice,^[a] even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen^[b] him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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Verse 1 – In what ways are we today like exiles of the Dispersion?

Verse 2 – Have you ever experienced not just grace and peace, but grace and peace in abundance? If yes, when and what was it like?

Verse 3 – How does the resurrection of Jesus give you a new birth into a living hope?

Verses 4-5 – What does it mean for you today to know that your inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, unfading, kept in heaven for you, and that you are being protected by the power of God?

Verse 7 – How are you being tested by fire right now?

Is your faith genuine? If so, how is the genuineness of your faith being revealed?

Are you able to rejoice even now while you are having to suffer various trials?

If yes, what makes you able to do that?

Meets our greatest needs and addresses our greatest concerns – John 20: 19-29 NRSV

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² 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.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

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What today are your greatest needs and your greatest concerns?

Verse 19 – Like us, the disciples were under self-quarantine - The doors of the house were locked for fear of the Jews

Verse 19 – The presence of Jesus – He came and stood among them

Verses 19 and 21 – “Peace be with you”

Verse 20 – Evidence of the resurrection - He showed them His hands and His side

Verse 21 – Purpose and calling - As the Father has sent Me, so I send you

Verse 22 – He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”

Verse 23 – Authority - If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them

I believe Thomas (so called Doubting Thomas) has been given a bum wrap

John 11:16 – “Let us go also, that we may die with Him”

Verse 26 – The doors were shut - but this time it does not say that they were locked

Verse 28 – “My Lord and my God” – Thomas is the first disciple recorded as calling Jesus God