

John 20:19-23 – After the Resurrection

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Rienecker, Handfuls, Gill, Poole, Robertson, Trapp, Henry, Poole, JFB, Geneva, Lightfoot, FFG, Family, Barnes, Calvin,
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **When a person dies, he might leave a legacy.**

You might remember he made you laugh.
Maybe she was a good cook.
Maybe you raised children together.
Or maybe he left an inheritance for you.

Those are all nice legacies. But that's all. They can't do anything more for you.

You can't talk to them.
You can't eat their food.
You can't spend time with them.
And whatever they left will one day be used up.

But when Jesus died it was not the end. He rose triumphantly on the 3rd day and continued to provide what his children needed. He left a lasting legacy! Listen then to this lasting legacy he left.

Our headings are:

Proof of the Resurrection

Peace of the Resurrection

Power of the Resurrection

Our goals are: **That you will rejoice Jesus was raised from the dead for you, and that you will proclaim the benefits of his resurrection so others can receive his benefits and bring glory to him also.**

Proof of the Resurrection

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.

1. Sunday evening, as the disciples met together for worship, and with their doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus appeared in their midst.

At this time, they were being accused of stealing the Lord's body!

2. With Jesus' appearing, the disciples could have no doubt he was alive, and John, his closest friend, confirmed it was him.

Jesus had met with Mary, some others, and with the 2 men on the road to Emmaus, and then he met with his disciples.

He had sent word of his resurrection to his disciples, but now he did more: He showed by his action he was resurrected.

3. Jesus then spoke to them saying, "Peace be with you," which was a common Jewish greeting.

So they again knew from his speech that he was not a ghost but the real living, resurrected, Jesus.

4. Jesus then showed them his hands and his side, further confirming he was not a ghost, but a real person.

The resurrected Lord kept the marks on his hand, his feet, and his side.

Those scars reminded his people of what he had to do so they might be forgiven.

They were love scars.

5. Hearing and seeing Jesus, 2 things resulted:

a. The disciples were happy they had seen the Lord and that he was indeed resurrected.

b. Their faith was surely strengthened. Miracles always strengthen the faith of those who believe.

6. And notice the emphasis: This took place the "same day of his resurrection" which was the 1st day of the week.

7. Lessons:

a. Don't forsake the assembling of yourselves together for worship and mutual edification.

Don't shoot yourself in the foot.

Yes, sheep may be scattered by the storm during the week, but you must soon come together when the storm passes.

b. It is surprising people hold to evolution when none of it has ever been observed as truth, and yet they deny the resurrection of Jesus, when so many were able to witness it.

At least 500 people saw him at one time and over many weeks.

Of course we believe it, not just because of eyewitnesses, but because the Bible says so.

(Ever seen a 2-cell organism? They've never been observed!)

c. You will see the marks on Jesus's hands and side one day in heaven.

Those who reject him, who will stand before him and be condemned, will see those scars too, but it will be too late for forgiveness.

d. As you wait for heaven, see his body broken and his blood shed when you participate in the Lord's Supper.

e. Your job is to speak of the resurrection. This was the center of the Apostle Paul's preaching. Jesus was crucified, dead, buried, and rose again for sinners!

Don't stop at Christ's death. Preach to them.

Only the most pitiful deny the resurrection.

f. All 3 major feasts of the OT which pointed to Christ's redeeming work of Jesus was on Sunday. Jesus continued to meet with his disciples on Sundays after his resurrection.

This was intended to highlight the new day of worship and rest: Sunday.

Peace of the Resurrection

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

1. Jesus spoke peace to his disciples a second time (See V19 above), but with a deeper message than his first greeting.

This promise of peace was not just forgiving them for running away from him and denying they knew him; this was a deeper, stronger peace – **a peace he made with God the Father for them through his resurrection.**

2. Jesus then sent his disciples to be agents of this peace between man and God, underscoring 2 things:

a. Just as Jesus came under direction of his Father to bring peace, and spread peace throughout the world, so he was commissioning his children to do.

b. The disciples were to assume there were many enemies of God (that's why they needed peace), so life wasn't going to be easy as they spread peace.

This was not the Muslim peace when they say, "A-Salaam-Alaikum." Their greeting, though good, is not a lasting peace. That is "getting along and being nice" peace. Peace only comes through the only Peace Maker – Jesus.

Jesus gave peace between man and God. The Testator died and left his legacy of eternal peace to them.

John 14:27 "**Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives** do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

3. Jesus would not only send out his disciples to make peace, but he would also strengthen them by the work of his Holy Spirit, whom they needed, because the work was beyond their ability.

This confirms Jesus is God as he is claiming equality in work with the Father! He has all authority.

He is not like the prophets, priests, and kings of the OT...who were all dead. He has power to change hearts.

4. Lessons:

a. You have peace because Jesus made peace for you. It is a peace that passes all understanding!

It is a peace that guarantees eternal life in heaven.

b. The peace this world offers is the absence of war, but true peace with God – a permanent peace accord that can never fall apart-Jesus made for you.

The world's treaties always fall apart.

c. Christ's peace brought joy. You have it now. You will have it in fullness in eternity. Wait for it.

John 16:22 "Therefore you now have sorrow; **but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice**, and your joy no one will take from you.

d. Since your job is to bring peace, you have to also understand there will be opposition to what you say. (You only need peace if you are at war!)

Plan on troubles. Jesus will help you.

Power of the Resurrection

22 And when He had said this, **He breathed on them**, and said to them, "**Receive the Holy Spirit.**

1. Jesus then breathe on the disciples, picturing creation, so they would have life to multiply and fill the earth, and have dominion over it.

They already could have children biologically and raise them in the covenant. But now he wanted them to have spiritual children to help with dominion over the earth.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a living being.

Ezekiel 37:9 Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "**Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.**"'"

Jesus was blessing them with special gifts of the Holy Spirit to do this work.

23 "**If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them**; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

2. Jesus then showed them how peace would come: They would preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and those who repented, would be forgiven all their sins.

If they would not repent, then the Gospel of Jesus Christ would pronounce them judged of God. The Gospel is powerful when preached with the Holy Spirit.

3. Roman Catholics say the church itself, and the pope as its head, has the authority to send men to hell.

They use, or rather, misuse this verse:

Matthew 18:18 "Assuredly, I say to you, **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven**, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

No church has that power to send men to hell. No preacher has that power. But our Gospel does!

Remember what our Catechism teaches: **The preaching of the Gospel and Christian discipline open and close the kingdom of God.**

The Lord never gave Peter power over the other apostles. All were of equal authority. The church declares what heaven declares.

The **church doesn't make people go to hell**; we **declare the fact they will go to hell without Jesus.**

Luke 24:46... "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 "**And you are witnesses of these things.**"

4. Lessons:

a. Don't tell someone "Go to hell." You have no such declarative role. The church may only say, "Unless you repent of this sin, you will go to hell."

Also, notice I declare you to be free of your sins "**if you have confessed your sins through Christ alone!**"

I have no power to pardon. Only the one sinned against can forgive sins. I am delegated to declare his will. **I only declare the price of God's pardon!**

b. If Jesus had just died and was buried, but never rose from the dead, and you believed in him, you would have your sins forgiven, but you would have no life to enjoy!

His resurrection gives you life.

c. Having been filled with the Holy Spirit, tell men of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus so others can be adopted as God's children and have their sins forgiven.

Acts 1:8 "But **you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Luke 24:47 "and that **repentance and remission of sins should be preached** in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Conclusion:

The resurrection was the glorious completing of the benefits of Jesus' work.

Jesus rose triumphantly and proved it to many, even showing the 5 scars on his body.

He then declared peace to them, peace with God and peace with each other.

And finally, **he showed them the power of the resurrection**.

They were to go and proclaim this message, that if people received Jesus' work, they would have peace and have their sins forgiven!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus:

1. Rejoice! Jesus was raised from the dead for you. All his benefits continue and will continue forever.

2. Reproduce! Let the world know they too can have peace with God. Invite them to be adopted into Christ's family.

Tell them Jesus was raised from the dead for them. Have beautiful feet!

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

3. Reject those who try to promote self-help or imitation salvation!

They have no idea what they are talking about! Satan has deceived them into thinking they are self-supporting! They are not.

They are lost without Jesus.

Finally: Do you scoff at the resurrection? If you think the dead can't be raised to life, you are still in your sins and will die for your own sins...but you won't be annihilated. You

will be separated from God for eternity.

But if you want the Covenant Keeper's death to be counted as yours, and you ask for it, you will have life, life eternal.