

He Came, He Died, Now What – Part 1

turn your bibles to [John 20](#)

The bible has two parts.

- Old Testament and New Testament.

And in the New Testament there are 27 books

- 4 of them are called gospels (telling the story of Jesus)
- 21 of them are letters that unpack the meaning of Jesus ...
- For the church, our individual lives and the world.

- 1 is a history book about the early church and ...
- 1 is a prophecy called Revelations.

And everyone of those 27 books ultimately deal with Jesus Christ ...

- As a resurrected, risen, living person ...
- Who is the center-piece of the universe!

John 1:1, 14 ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Jesus is the center-piece of the universe.

- And it is because of him that we are gathered here today.

Father ... we know that you are here ...

- And we are eager to hear from your inspired word ...
- Concerning the Risen Christ ...
- And the role he desires to play in our lives.

We pray that our time together in the scriptures today ...

- Will enable us to see your son more clearly.
- And that we will develop a better understanding ...
- Of his infinite value and worth to our personal lives.
- As well as the universe that we live in.

Some context to our text this morning in [John 20](#)

- It is Easter Sunday and the 11 disciples (Judas has taken his own life)
- Are hiding in a room behind locked doors

- And they are most probably asking themselves the question ...

- Was Jesus not supposed to be the long-awaited Messiah?
- Was he not supposed to save his people?

He Came, He DIED ... NOW WHAT?

So what we are going to do over the next two weeks is ...

- Take a look at the Risen Christ's first appearance to the 11
- Looking at what he did and what he said.
- And seeing if we can take anything from that.

Today we will look at what he did.

- And next we will look at what he said.

We will start with **What he did ...**

John 20:19¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week (that is Sunday, Easter Sunday) when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them ...

So, he was crucified on Friday ...

- He was in the grave (bodily) for a part of three days.
- And he has now risen early on the Sunday morning.
- He has appeared to Mary Magdalene earlier that day.
- And now he has appearing to the 11 disciples.

And there are a couple of physical observations ...

- That we can make from his appearance.

When he appears to them ...

1. The doors are locked.
2. They were afraid.
3. He stood among them.

Lets talk about those three facts for a moment.

1. The Doors were Locked

The doors were locked ...

- And without them opening the doors for him.
- He just simply appeared in their midst.
- AND he wasn't a ghost.

In **John 20:20** it says, "²⁰ ... he showed them his hands and side..."

- This is where the nails went in ...
- And this is where the spear went in.

In the telling of this same incident in the book of Luke Jesus said ...

³⁹ ... Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

Luke 24:39

They were afraid that they were delusional ...

- How could he get in with the doors being locked?

Maybe they were just seeing things.

- Maybe it wasn't Jesus standing in front of them, but a ghost.

Again, in the book of Luke Jesus said ...

⁴¹ “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³

and he took it and ate it in their presence.” **Luke 24:41–43**

All of that (most likely) just to prove, “I am not a ghost.”

- “I have flesh, I have bones, I have a hole in my side.”

So what do we learn from this?

- He is physical, yet not quite like us.
- He has a body, but it is not quite like our body ...
- And yet it is like our body.

I think that in a way, this is how it is going to be like at the resurrection.

- When those who are in Christ are raised from the dead
- To live in the new heavens and the new earth.

We won't exactly be the way that we are now.

- But we will be enough like the way that we are now ...
- That we loved about creation will go with us
- And everything bad and limiting, will be left behind.

What does that mean for you and me today?

- I think what it means is that Jesus can go in our lives ...
- Where nobody else can go.

He can go where your spouse or best friend cannot go.

- Where your mentor or “discipling-partner” cannot go.
- And he can go where your councilor cannot go.

He can reach into you anywhere, anytime.

- And there is no place where you are ...
- And there is no depth of personhood that you are ...
- That Jesus cannot penetrate.

As people, we are all incredibly complex.

- As a matter of fact, we all have multiple layers of complexity.
- That is exceptionally hard to comprehend or understand.

Lisa and I will often say, man, we as people are complicated.

- I have a book in my library entitled ...
- Everybody is Normal until you get to know them (kan jy asb n image van die boek hier in sit?)

Yet Jesus can penetrate through it all.

- And I have seen him do so again and again.
- ...

It is a healing wonder to contemplate, know and understand that ...

- All the complex layers of your soul that you don't understand ...
- That your spouse and friends don't understand
- As a matter of fact, that no one understands.
- Is familiar territory to the Risen Christ?

There is no one like him in this regard, in all of the universe.

- And he is alive and well today.
- He is the "God-man" who cannot only penetrate the depth of your soul
- But, who is capable of doing things in your life and in this world ...
- That you cannot even phantom or imagine.

And that certainly brings great comfort to my very perplexing soul.

2. They were Afraid

John 20:19 ¹⁹ ... the disciples were together, with the doors locked **for fear of the Jews ...**

Their leader 3 days ago had been crucified ...

- Publically executed because he was a threat to the crown of Caesar.

The disciples are now in great danger and they know it.

- Therefore, they are afraid.

- Which is completely understandable.

And while they are filled with fear.

- Jesus comes and stands right in their midst.

Why is that important?

- Because I think that it is in our fear ...
- That Jesus often makes himself most powerfully known.

I have many fears ... (Many things that haunt me.)

One of the things that I am constantly anxious about

- Is not having a sermon for a Sunday morning.
- I have reoccurring dreams about this!

One of my other fears, also in this regard ...

- Is that we come to church on Sunday to hear the word of God
- And the word is not heard ...
- Because I did a poor job with it.

In other words, I actually make it to Sunday

- I have something to say, but what I am saying is not helpful.
- It doesn't touch lives or move people closer to Jesus.

Then I have the fear of ...

- The church not becoming all that she needs to be.
- That my children will not know God for all that he is.
- That I will die and my kids would not have known me ...
- And how much I love them.

- Lisa and I will not know each other by the time the kids leave.

We all have different fears

- I think a BIG fear for many is that you won't be liked or loved.
- That you won't be enough.
- That you won't be understood.

Others fear not being significant, recognized or valued.

Some fear what the future holds?

- What will I become?
- Will I ever get married?
- Will I make it financially?

- ...

And I think that what Jesus is saying in this action of being with them ...

- Right in the middle of their fear is ...
- I come to my own when they are afraid ...
- And I come to help them.

Notice, he doesn't stand outside saying ...

- The bible has said a hundred times, "Do not be afraid."
- Have you not the scriptures where I said to ...
- Abraham in [Gen. 15:1](#) "Do not be afraid!"
- The people of Israel in [Ex. 20:2](#) "Do not be afraid!"
- To Joshua in [Joshua 8:1](#) "Do not be afraid!"
- Do not be afraid! Do not be afraid! Do not be afraid!
- It is all over the bible!

SO, when you guys are actually able to pull your act together and ...

- Start trusting God enough to NOT be afraid, then I will come to you.
- He doesn't do that!

The Risen Christ can see you and me struggling to "not be afraid".

- He sees you saying, "I do believe. Help me overcome my unbelief."
- And he comes.
- He comes to us right into the midst of our fear.
- NOT after or before, but right in the middle of it.

And in that fear, I believe he says ...

¹⁰ Do not fear, FOR [I am with you](#); do not be dismayed, FOR [I am your God](#). [I will strengthen you and help you](#); [I will uphold you with my righteous right hand](#). [Isaiah 41:10](#)

He has risen, he is present, he is near, he is concerned ...

- He is interested, he is not unable to sympathizing ...
- And he is the Reigning Christ!

He is NOT disinterested, distant, unconcerned, far away or powerless to help!

- NO! He has risen, he is present ...
- And he is saying, "I am with you!"
- Right here, right now, right in the middle of your fear.

Whether that fear is a fear ...

- To surrender to his Rule and Reign.
- To do the right thing.
- To step out in faith ...

And he is saying ...

¹⁰ Do not fear, FOR I am with you; do not be dismayed, FOR I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

3. He stood among them

John 20:19 ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them ...

He stood there in the middle of the meeting.

- He didn't come to the edge.
- He didn't whisper through the door ...
- "Hey guys, can you hear me?"
- I am going to see if you believe.
- I am going to see if you can recognize my voice.

He was not playing games with them and messing with their faith.

- Seeing if they could figure things out.

He wanted them to see him.

- He wanted them to know him.

He stood right there among them and said ...

- Look at my hands and my side.
- This is where the nails went in.
- This is where the spear went in.

He is trying to help them believe.

- And I believe seeing this, was really helpful to them.
- That is why he made himself available and visible to them ...
- He did it in order to help them increase their faith.

And I believe that he is doing the same for us today.

He is not hiding and playing games, he wants to be helpful.

Acts 17:26–28 ²⁶ From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

²⁷ God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.

He decided where you would live and in what time you would live

- In order to give you the best possible shot at a relationship with him.

He wants to make himself known, that is why he gave us ...

- His word, nature (Psalm 19:1-4) ...
- His Holy Spirit, people, sense ...

He is the Risen Christ and he can ...

- Penetrate your soul and reach you and understand you ...
- Like no one else in the universe can.

And he wants to be helpful.

- He wants you to see him and be fully satisfied in him!

As we celebrate Easter and enjoy our Christ given public holidays

- Let us remember, appreciate, celebrate and behold The Risen Christ!