

The Resurrection Means Forgiveness

Promise: Jesus' death and resurrection means our sins are forgiven

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Acts 5:12-20; Psalms 148; Revelation 1:4-18; [John 20:19-31](#)

(2nd Sunday of Easter, 4/24/22)

If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld. – 23

Lead In – Last Sunday we had the discovery of the empty tomb early in the morning along with the words by the two angels. This morning we have the Risen Christ's appearance to the disciples that first evening. And Jesus greets them. What's in a greeting? We give them all the time. Good morning. How are you doing? Or, How's it going? Look out when things aren't really going that well and you get a serious answer. You may or may not have been ready for this.

I. There's More to Jesus' Greeting Than You Think

- A. Shalom, is typical, but "peace" is not lightly given...
- B. There is more than one reason for fear...
- C. After gladness (relief) the immediate topic is...

II. Mission Culminating on Cross and Empty Tomb

- A. The first word from the cross...
- B. The climax of the mission with the fourth word...
- C. With the sixth word, nothing left to be done!

III. How Jesus' Mission Is Carried On

- A. Witnessing to His death and resurrection means...
- B. Authorized, delegated, and equipped (empowered)...
- C. The ways the gift of forgiveness bestowed...

Parting Shot – We know that we are saved by faith. But sometimes we act as if faith was simply a matter of believing something to be true, in this case that Jesus in fact rose from the grave. Faith certainly means that, and yet, it is more. It is not only believing Jesus' resurrection to be true, but it is trusting, relying, and receiving the forgiveness He won on the Cross. And that necessarily means abandoning any other reliance we might have. That's the repentance part! Letting go, and entrusting God, receiving constantly His forgiveness...

the doors ... Locked, for fear of the Jews – would they too be arrested for the so-called conspiracy against the Romans.

Mk 14:50-52 And they all left him and fled. And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

Lk 23:33-34 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Mt 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

2Co 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1Pe 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

John 20:19-31 ESV

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

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

Jn 19:30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Lk 24:45-47 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Jn 20:21 As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.

Forgiveness Given: In the preaching of the Gospel, in the absolution spoken generally or in private confession, in Holy Baptism, in Holy Communion, in the reading of the Word, and in the mutual conversation and consolation of the brothers (saints).

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