

John 20:30-31; 19-29 – Life in his name

Mission statement

John 20:30-31

Goal of John is for everyone reading about who Jesus was and what He did to believe in His Name – place his/her faith in him so they may have new life in Him. That's the joy of Easter. Now, let's read how John got to that statement:

John 20:19-23

Greetings are important: [NBA players: 30-second hand dance...](#)

Hebrew culture, "Peace be with you" - normal greeting. However, on this occasion (evening that Jesus rose from the dead – Sunday), those words had much greater meaning.

In the moment, the disciples may not have processed it because Jesus just walked through a locked door. Locked because the disciples were afraid of both the Jewish religious leaders and the Romans – the two groups who had sent their Rabbi to death.¹

Perhaps they didn't comprehend Peace because they were distracted by his *hands, feet and side* that had been pierced. Had to come to terms with Jesus, the risen Savior. Can you imagine the flood of emotion? This is the Risen Christ! Jesus is Alive!

They were glad – overjoyed - better term for it – couldn't believe it. Jesus rose from the dead, He is the Messiah, He is the Holy One of God, He is God.

In the middle of the happy chaos, Jesus repeats himself (v. 21) – Peace be with you, so as the Father sent me, I am sending you. If you know much about the book of John, this statement parallels a prayer he has for everyone who would believe in Him. **John 17:28** – As you have sent me into the world, so I send them into the world.

In their euphoria - Speechless, laughing, crying – Jesus is always pointing them to His mission and their mission – our mission. A mission built on His love for us and our love for Him.

Jesus models the mission for us! He has sent us to be salt (preserve) and light (life giving). Jesus was sent by the father – In the flesh to save the world from sin; called into the same world to bear witness to who He is – call others to life from death. By the power of the Spirit living in us. Scene fast forwards a week - from excitement and joy, from faith to faithless.

Thomas had not been with the others when they saw Jesus resurrected on that first day. Discouraged, alone, faithless – without belief.

[Baseball game: struck out last time at bat, made an error in the field, but his team won.](#)

Maybe that is where you are today. Everyone else is happy and celebrating and you are frustrated and discouraged. Without hope. I will never believe unless I see it.

John 20:24-29

Week after the resurrection. Thomas is with them... was alone, now with others. Lesson:

Even when we are discouraged, we need people of faith around us

He has reconnected with those that love him. As they are meeting, Jesus enters the locked room again without opening the door.

Repeats his greeting, "Peace be with you" – It's the one thing Thomas didn't have at the moment. He had frustration, fear, hopelessness.

The resurrected Christ didn't condemn Thomas. He didn't chastise him; He didn't heap on discouragement. No, Jesus died for Thomas, He rose for Thomas and now He stoops low for

¹ Borchert, G. L. (2002). [John 12-21](#) (Vol. 25B, p. 303). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

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Thomas so that He may believe! Put your finger in the scars... Believe! By taking up Thomas' challenge in this way, Jesus simultaneously proves that he hears his disciples even when he is not physically present, and removes all possible grounds for unbelief, even the most unreasonable.² *Knew Thomas' doubts before He entered the room*

Scar competition – who has been the most reckless, clumsy, accident prone. “Well look at this one”, Uncle Bey. Jesus wins scar competition!

Thomas believes: **My Lord and my God** – highest form of confession in the book! It also brings the book of John full circle – Chapter 1, in the beginning... the Word was God! He became flesh, Lamb of God – bearing the sin of the world, King! Jesus is Lord

Great excitement is that Thomas, isolated and discouraged got to see his Risen Savior. But John knew that wouldn't be the highlight of this encounter or of Jesus' ministry. Climatic statement...

Blessing comes to those who don't have to see the resurrection to believe

John is writing to an audience that will not see the resurrected Jesus in person. As you and I read the words of John, God's Spirit speaks to us revealing the truth to us. The reality that Jesus is the Savior. He died for my sins and yours. He conquered death. He is alive. I don't have to see it to believe it. I put my faith in Jesus. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

That confession - putting my faith in Jesus for peace, for my eternity, for the forgiveness of sins leads to LIFE. Life in His Name.

Jesus is the giver of LIFE

He conquered death; He lives. When you and I place our faith in Him and Him alone, we receive LIFE abundant and life everlasting. That is the celebration of Easter Death is defeated! We have life eternal. Do you have life in His name?

² Carson, D. A. (1991). [The Gospel according to John](#) (p. 657). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.