

## SERMON NOTES

### The Risen Christ at Work (John 20:19-31)

**Main Point:** *It is the risen Christ's work to bring about in us true belief in Him. It is He who restores, establishes, and strengthens. And with new true belief in Him comes new, real, meaningful, unending life in His name.*

#### 1. This Is the Work of God

**John 2:18-22** – <sup>18</sup> The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?” <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and You will raise it in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But He was speaking of the temple of His body. <sup>22</sup> So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the Word which Jesus had spoken.

**Matt 27:62-64** – <sup>62</sup> ... the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup> and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ <sup>64</sup> Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”

**1Pet 5:10** – <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, establish, and strengthen you.

#### 2. The Risen Christ at Work in Mary

**John 20:15-16** – <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

**Q - What does the risen Christ do for the broken-hearted?**

#### 3. The Risen Christ at Work in the Disciples

**John 20:19** – <sup>19</sup> So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” <sup>21</sup> So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” <sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.”

**Ps 33:6,9** – <sup>6</sup> By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. ... <sup>9</sup> For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

**Q - What does the risen Christ do for the fearful?**

#### 4. The Risen Christ at Work in Thomas

**John 20:24-28** – <sup>24</sup> But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” <sup>26</sup> After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

**Q - What does the risen Christ do for the skeptic?**

## 5. The Risen Christ at Work in Us

**John 20:30-31** – <sup>30</sup> Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

**John 20:29** – <sup>29</sup> “Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”

## For Further Thought and Discussion

### Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this sermon? What didn't you understand?

### Going Deeper:

2. From Mary's encounter with the risen Christ, what can you say He does for the broken-hearted? Why is sorrow better than anger? Why does it take a word from Him to mend sorrow? How would you describe the risen Christ's heart for the broken-hearted?
3. From the disciples' first encounter with the risen Christ, what can you say He does for the fearful? Why were the disciples still fearful, even though they had heard eyewitness testimony, and in the case of Peter even seen the risen Christ? Why does it take a word from Him to cast out fear? What do you think about what Jesus said in Matt 6:34? How would you describe the risen Christ's heart for the fearful?
4. From Thomas's encounter with the risen Christ, what can you say He does for the skeptical? Why is the fear of disappointment the root of skepticism? Why does it take a word from Him to change skepticism into faith? How would you describe the risen Christ's heart for the skeptic?
5. Why are our encounters with the risen Christ usually in the pages of the Bible? Why are they personal, intimate, face-to-face, just between you and God? And why do they require us to be honest about ourselves?
6. Why is it good news that it is the risen Christ's work to bring about true faith in Him, a greater faith in Him, a deeper trust in Him? Why is new true belief in Him a miracle? Why is newness of life in Him a result of true belief in the risen Christ?

**Application:**

7. When was the last time you had an encounter with the risen Christ while reading the Bible, or while pondering and praying the Word? How would you describe that encounter? What did the risen Christ do for you or with you or in you? What newness of life did you receive?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?