



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



The Bible and Disciples' Testimonies Bear Record that Jesus is Alive

Sunday, April 1, 2018

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The Resurrection

- John 20:1** The first *day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.
- John 20:2** Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.
- John 20:3** Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.
- John 20:4** So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.
- John 20:5** And he stooping down, *and looking in*, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.
- John 20:6** Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,
- John 20:7** And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.
- John 20:8** Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.
- John 20:9** For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.
- John 20:10** Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

- John 20:11** But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked* into the sepulchre,
- John 20:12** And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.
- John 20:13** And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.
- John 20:14** And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.
- John 20:15** Jesus saith unto her, **Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?** She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.
- John 20:16** Jesus saith unto her, **Mary.** She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.
- John 20:17** Jesus saith unto her, **Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

John 20:18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* he had spoken these things unto her.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

John 20:19 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, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.**

John 20:20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, **Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**

John 20:23 **Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.**

Jesus and Thomas

John 20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

John 20:25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

John 20:26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, **Peace be unto you.**

John 20:27 Then saith he to Thomas, **Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.**

John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

John 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, **Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.**

The Purpose of This Book

John 20:30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

We are not going to talk about this whole thing, but there are a few things here we want to talk about as we go. As we talked on Friday night; we talked about Passover. We talked about the blood that was shed in Egypt. We know that we talked about the Jewish people. They celebrated Passover. They still yet do that today because of the lamb that was slain when they were in the land of Egypt. God told Moses to tell Pharaoh that if he didn't let the people go then the first born in the land was all going to

die, from the king's house all the way down to the servants. We know that Pharaoh wouldn't do that.

He also told Moses, I have a remedy. I have a plan for your people, for my people. If they are going to be saved, if the death angel is going to pass over them then here is what you need to do. Take you a lamb and put it up on the tenth day of the month. Keep it up. Inspect and look at it until the fourteenth day of the month. It has to be a lamb without spot or blemish. On the fourteenth day of the evening, you kill the lamb. Catch the blood in a basin. Take the blood and take hyssop and put it on the doorposts and over top of the door. When the death angel comes through the land, we know that God told Moses when that happened, then the destroyer would not enter their house. We also know that, as we read the story, that things happened just like God said that they were going to happen. We know that when time was fulfilled, when things happened, we know that the death angel came, the destroyer came. We know that every house in Egypt, where there was no blood, there was at least one dead. The Bible says there was a great cry that went out through the land of Egypt. No doubt there was. No doubt there were many folks that died. However, in the land Goshen where the blood of the lamb was—not one was dead.

The Jewish people celebrate that. They celebrate that till this day. We know that Friday, we call it Good Friday; we do that because Jesus Christ is our Passover. He is the New Testament church Passover. We don't celebrate the time that we left Egypt. We don't do that. We do celebrate the time that when we left sin. We left sin behind. We do celebrate that. However, Friday was the Passover. We talked about the blood that Jesus shed, the price that He paid, and the things that happened. We know they put Him on the cross somewhere around nine o'clock in the morning. Around noon until three o'clock in the afternoon there was darkness over the whole land. We know about three o'clock in the afternoon, Jesus cried, "My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?" You go on and read a little further down and He makes this statement; "It is finished." The Bible says, He bowed His head and gave up the ghost.

As we talked on Friday night, and we are not going to talk about all those things, we know that Nicodemus came with Joseph. They came and they took down the body after they had got permission from Pilate. They put Him in a new tomb wherein never a man laid before. They rolled a big stone up after some conversations with some things Jesus said He was going to do. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up again." They go to Pilate and say, "This deceiver said, you kill me and in three days I'm going to get up." So, they go out and they put a whole bunch of soldiers out there guarding a tomb where a dead man is at.

Listen. Jesus Christ did not stay dead. This day, today, is about the time that Jesus Christ raised from the dead. We know that they put Him in the tomb somewhere before six PM on Friday. We know that they did that. I know sometimes we think that Jesus was in the tomb, doing nothing. However, if you read the book Peter, you will find out that Jesus had some things to do after He had died. The Bible tells us that He went and

preached unto the spirits that were in prison, those spirits that were sometime disobedient in during the days of Noah and speaks about some other things there. We know that He goes there and preaches. He goes there and makes a proclamation...Noah and he spoke about Noah and he preached. There is no doubt that Noah knew about the blood and about things like that. Jesus goes and preaches unto those spirits that were disobedient during the time of Noah. Not that they are going to get saved. No. That is not what it is talking about. He goes there to make a proclamation. "Hey, the One that Noah was preaching to you guys about, I'm Him. The One that he told was going to come, I'm Him." The Bible says he was a preacher of righteousness. Amen! He had to know something about the God of heaven. He had to know something was going on.

Jesus goes there and he preaches. I don't know how long he spent there. I don't know what else He did. I do know that He did that. I do know that He goes there and preaches and makes the proclamation. "I am the Son of God. I am the Messiah. I am the one that came suffered, bled and died that mankind could be saved. I am the One that Noah talked to you guys about." We know that He did that.

We also know this.

John 20:1 The first *day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

If you read the other accounts, keep in mind, these guys, some of these fellows are writing about the events that they are writing about and they are getting their information from other people. Not all these guys were around here writing. Not all these guys that are writing were around here and seen exactly what took place. They are getting their information second handed sometimes.

A good way to look at that is this. If we had an accident, if there was an accident out here on the road; and you had four different people standing out there watching the same accident happen, you get those four people in four different places, do you know what you would hear? You would hear four different stories. Even though it was all true what they said, one would give you more detail than the other ones. This one may not have seen that, and this one saw this. When you look at the four gospels, that is how you need to look at it. These guys were writing the information that they had. Not everyone of them had all the information. However, as we look at all four of them then we can get a pretty good picture of what went on.

We know that women are coming. We know that they are coming here to finish embalming the Lord's body. We know that it is dark. While they are coming, they are talking among themselves about who is going to roll the stone away for us. That was the big conversation as the women were coming, as they were coming to the tomb. They were talking about who is going to roll the stone away for us. Keep that in mind. The Bible says here when they get here, if you read the other accounts, we know that there were some angels dispatched from heaven. We know that there was an

earthquake and the angels came and rolled away the stone. When the ladies get here do you know what they see? They see stone rolled away. The stone is not there.

John 20:2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

John 20:3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

John 20:4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

John 20:5 And he stooping down, *and looking in*, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

Here is what happens. Mary sees what is happening. She sees the stone rolled away. She goes back and tells Peter and John. The stone is rolled away. His body is not in there. We know that Peter and John take off running. No doubt, Peter probably was older than John was. John outruns him. John gets to the sepulchre. He looks in the tomb but he doesn't go in. He sees the linen cloth laying there. Do you know what Peter does? He goes on in. He wants to see what is going on there. Peter may have had a lot of faults, but he's a fellow that you would have wanted to have with you when times got tough. He would have been there with you.

John 20:6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

John 20:7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

John 20:8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

John 20:9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

They didn't understand. Even though Jesus Christ had told them many times that He was going to die and that He was going to be buried, but that He was going to raise from the dead on the third day. The fellows just didn't understand it. There is a reason for that. You know, they didn't have the Holy Spirit that we have today. They didn't have the Word of God that you and I have today. They were simply living and walking by faith. Do you know what John believed, when it says here he believed? He believed that He was gone. He believed that He wasn't there. He still yet didn't know what was going to happen. He still yet didn't get that He was raised from the dead. He did not get that. They were going to here very soon. Something is going to happen here that is going to get their attention.

John 20:10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

Get that. They leave. They leave the tomb.

John 20:11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked* into the sepulchre,

Peter and John are gone. They are gone. They have come. They have seen the empty tomb. They know the stone has been rolled away. They have had some conversations, as you read the other accounts with some soldiers that was there. We know that when the earthquake happened and the angels came, we know that they fainted. Some other things happened. Here Mary, she looks into the tomb. She is weeping. She is crying. She is broken hearted.

John 20:12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

Again, here is a lady that loved the Lord. Here is an individual that spent a lot of time with Jesus. Here is an individual here that was weeping and heartbroken because she was thinking that someone had stolen His body. That is what she was thinking. Where have you taken Him? Where is He at? She looks in the tomb and do you know what she sees? She sees two angels, one at the head and one at the foot where Jesus had laid.

John 20:13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

In other words, Mary why are you crying? Why are you so sorrowful? She said, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him."

John 20:14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

If you read the other accounts, do you know what the angels told her? Mary what are you doing here? You are looking for somebody that is alive. Jesus is not dead. Why are you seeking the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen as He said. You see, that is what the message was from the angel. He is not here. Why are you looking for Him? He is not dead. He is alive. She gets to witness this. She gets to hear the angels testify to this. She sees these angels. There is no doubt that her record is true. The Bible says in verse 15...

John 20:15 Jesus saith unto her, **Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?** She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

John 20:16 Jesus saith unto her, **Mary.** She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, **Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

This is Jesus speaking to her. Jesus said, why are you weeping? What is happening? She didn't understand that it was Jesus. She wasn't thinking in her mind that He was going to be walking around there. The scripture tells us that she thought He was the gardener that was there, the fellow that took care of garden here. But Jesus in verse 16, says this.

John 20:16 Jesus saith unto her, **Mary**. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

Jesus said unto her, “Mary.” She turned herself and said unto Him, “Rabboni” which is to say Master. She didn’t recognize Him by looking at Him. She wasn’t looking for that. However, it is an amazing thing, I think, that when Jesus called her name, she knew who exactly who it was speaking to her. Isn’t that great to know? Isn’t it great that we can be familiar with His voice? Isn’t it great that we can know that when He calls, who it is calling, and who it is speaking and she knew that?

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, **Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

Jesus here told Mary, “Don’t touch me. I have not yet gone to heaven. I am getting ready to ascend unto my Father and your Father, my God and your God. I’m getting ready to do that, but I have not done that yet. I have not gone there and offered this body on the temple, in the temple that was there, on the altar that was there, for man’s sin; I have not done that yet.” He says, “Don’t touch me.” Mary Magdalene the Bible says here in verse 18...

John 20:18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* he had spoken these things unto her.

Does everybody get that? That is what happens. If you read the whole account, when Mary comes back and tells the other disciples and the other people that she has seen the Lord. She has talked to the Lord. The things that had happened. Do you know what the Bible says that her words were? They were like idle tales. They didn’t believe what she had to say. They didn’t believe Jesus had rose from the dead. They saw Him die. They knew He had been beaten, bruised, and battered. They saw Him put in a tomb, but they didn’t understand that Jesus Christ was alive.

Do you know what He always does? When we want answers, do you know what He will always do? He will always give us answers. When we want to see Him, when we want a closer relationship with Him; He will always show up. That is what He is going to do here. This is what I really wanted to read tonight.

John 20:19 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, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.**

In other words, the same day that Jesus gets up from the dead. On Sunday, this is happening in the evening. There is no doubt that the disciples were scared to death. They didn’t know whether they were going to be the next one that was going to be killed. We know that the religious leaders had a tremendous animosity, not only for Jesus but also His followers and His disciples. Here the guys are all there in the upper room. I don’t know what they are talking about. I know they are scared. I know they are scared because of that the Jewish leaders may come and get them and kill them. I know they are thinking about that because the Bible says they are. However, while they

are there so perplexed and so scared and so afraid; do you know what the Bible says happens? Jesus just appears. He just appears. He didn't come through the door. He didn't come through the roof. He didn't come through the chimney. He just—He was there. Amen!

That is something that blesses me when I think about that. Do you know why it blesses me? The Bible tells me that I am going to have a body like His. Amen! I am going to have a body fashioned like the body of the Lord Jesus Christ. I know that. I know that we are going to have that. I don't understand all there is about it. However, as I read the scriptures about the body that we are going to have, in our eternal state; it is a body of power. It is a body that we are going to be able to do some things that we absolutely can't imagine here now. A body that is not going to have any restraints to it, like we have here today.

Jesus just appears. You don't put matter through matter. Can you? You can't take matter and put through matter unless you knock a hole in something. Do you know what Jesus did? He just appears. He is there.

John 20:19 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, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.**

What is going on guys? Why are you so afraid? Why are you scared? What is going on here? When He had so said...

John 20:20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

Do you know what He does? He says, "Fellows, I want you to understand it is me. They were scared. They were petrified. They had all kinds of things going on in their minds, no doubt. They thought He was going to be king. He was going to deliver them from all that was going to happen, had been happening from Roman oppression. He was going to be the Messiah and everything was going to be fine but now He was dead. Mary told them He was alive. They are scared to death now. Jesus appears unto them and says, "Hey, peace be unto you." Do you think their emotions got a little crazy? I'll guarantee you they did. I guarantee how they felt and what they were thinking. I'd say their minds starts going 90 mph. What are we seeing? What is going on? What is happening? Then things start clicking in their minds. Hey, we remember. I remember. He told me He was going to die, but He told me He was going to get up from the dead. Some things start happening here.

John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**

Do you remember reading that before? Sure, you have. That is something that these guys were going to need. The Holy Ghost is something that we need, if we are going to live a life that is pleasing to the God of heaven, we can't do that apart from the Holy Ghost. It is impossible. If we are going to worship Him, we are going to worship Him

because we have within us the Holy Ghost. People that are not saved cannot worship the God of heaven. It is impossible. We can't do that. If we are going to serve Him, if we are going to be used by Him, the only way that will ever happen is when we allow His presence to take control of our lives and take us and use us and direct us and bless us; that is the only way that will happen. If we won't allow that to happen, then we are never going to do anything that is going to bring glory to God.

If we look at the church world as a whole today, you put all the programs that we have together; do you know what you would find out in a lot of places? It doesn't have anything to do with the direction of the Spirit. It doesn't have anything to do with God directing, and God blessing, and God empowering and God leading; it is just something we decided to do. Then we wonder why things fail. We wonder why things don't work. We wonder why that it doesn't do like we think it should do. Do you know what will never happen? When I follow, when you follow, when we follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit; do you know what it will never do? It will never fail. Amen! We will fail. The program will fail. If God is leading it then God will bless it and it will prosper and it will bring glory to His name. Do you know why? Because He did it. If He is not in it, you can anoint it. You can slobber on it. You can...on the outside it may look good, but it is nothing.

If you look at the church at Laodicea, they were a church that was booming, as far as finances go. They were rich. They were wealthy. They had programs. No doubt, they had ministries. When they looked at themselves, do you know what they saw? They saw that they were sound and good. They saw everything as just fine. But when Jesus looked at them, He said, "Man, you guys have some problems. You guys look at it this way, but I really see what is going on. I really know what is going on.

When we are led by the Spirit of God, when we are filled by His presence then God will bless our lives. There is nothing like it folks. If you are going to preach, you are going to sing, if you are going to minister in any way in the church of Jesus Christ, you will do it by and with and through the power of the Spirit or you won't do it. Now you may do something in church and people may pat you on the back and praise you and all that stuff. However, I'm talking about things that glorifies God. There is a difference. There are many things that go on that does not glorify God, under the heading of a church.

John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**

Jesus knew the battles these guys were about to fight. Jesus knew that just in a few days, that the day of Pentecost was going to come. We are going to talk about that in a few days. There are some things in the book of Joel that has been eating at me the last few days. There are some things in here we want to talk about in a few days, Jesus knew just in a few days that Pentecost was going to come. The New Testament church was going to be born. It was going to be born and started with 120 Jewish people. He also knew that these guys and Peter and some of them were going to preach. He also knew they were going to get threatened, beaten and put in jail. All kinds of issues were

going to happen. Do you know what Jesus knew? These guys were going to need His help. Amen! They were going to need His help. Do you know what He did? He sent the Holy Ghost. He told them, "I am going to go away. I know I have been a comfort here while I have been here. You guys have walked with me. You guys have eaten with me. I have blessed you. I have fed you. I have taken care of you. I have taught you. I am going to go away but I am going to send a comforter. I have comforted you while I'm here but I'm go. I'm going to send somebody else." Amen! Do you know who that was? That is the Holy Ghost. That is the Spirit of Almighty God. We call him different things but he is the Holy Ghost.

That excites me to know people like me and you; people like me that the presence of Almighty God would dwell in us. That is a tremendous blessing folks. There is no position on earth that we could ever get to where we would be more elevated than we are today if we are Christians. Do you know why? It is because the God of heaven is in here. He is speaking, encouraging, helping, keeping us safe, directing us, teaching us, and all kinds of things. We are blessed people tonight.

The Holy Spirit is real. He is not a bird. He is a person. He is the third person of the Godhead. He is just as much God, as Jesus was God. He is just as much God, as God the Father is God. Amen! He dwells within us. He dwells within people that live faithful lives, people who have said yes to Jesus Christ. People have heard the call and said yes, I am going to follow you. Yes, Lord I'm going to work for you. Yes, Lord I want you to be the master of my life. He dwells in here. He does so much for us and that is another message.

Here is what happens.

John 20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

It's Sunday evening. They are in the upper room. Jesus appears. Thomas is not there. The word Didymus means twin. So, Thomas evidently had a twin. Don't know what his name was. Don't know who he was. But he was one of twins.

John 20:25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

In other words, Jesus comes and appears unto the disciples that were there. Thomas was not there. Thomas comes back.

John 20:25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

You guys are telling me that you have seen Him and that He is alive and appeared here. You guys have told me that. I know what Mary said. I know what some of them have already said. The guys that were going to Emmaus today and they came back here. I know all of that stuff. However, if I don't see it, and if I can't put my finger in the

hole in His hand and thrust my hand into His side; I won't believe that He is alive. Amen! Do you know what the Lord always does? The Lord always shows up. When we really want proof of something the Lord will prove Himself to us. He doesn't prove himself to us just like a magic trick. Don't do that. That is not what I'm talking about. However, when we are genuinely seeking truth the Lord will show up. He will help us. He will teach us. He will do things for us when we really are seeking, looking for something from Him.

John 20:26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, **Peace be unto you.**

Eight days after the appearance on this particular day, the Bible says... They are still yet there. They are still in the upper room. They are still yet hanging out. However, this time is a little bit different for Thomas. He is not going to have to hear the testimony of someone else to believe. He is going to get to see with his own eyes. It is great when we can see things and hear other people testify about God's goodness. They were saved. God has done this. God has blessed me. God is changing my life. That is great to hear. Don't you think it is? However, something greater than that is when I can testify the same thing. When I know for sure that what is happening in my life; that I have been saved, been born again. God is blessing my life. He is answering my prayers. He is blessing me. He is using me. When I can get up and testify about that it is even better than hearing you do it. It is good to hear you do it but it is even better when we know it for sure. When I know for sure that I have been saved. It is great to hear you brag on Jesus and what He is doing in your life. That is something we need to do more of, everyone of us sitting here tonight.

Thomas said, "If I don't see the nail prints in His hands and take my finger and stick in...I'm not going to believe." The Bible says here that Jesus appears. Do you know what the first thing He does? He didn't greet the dudes. He didn't say, "Hey, guys how are you doing?" He didn't say, "Hey, let's do something." He said, "Thomas come over here a minute, I want to show you something. I've got something I want to show you..."

John 20:27 Then saith he to Thomas, **Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.**

Do you know what Thomas got to see? Thomas got to do this. (See the nail prints and His side where the spear penetrated Him.) Amen! Thomas got to do that. He saw and because saw, do you know what happened? Thomas knows beyond a shadow of a doubt now that Jesus Christ is alive.

Do you know how we know He is alive? I have never seen the Lord with my natural eyes and you haven't either. We will one day, by His grace. When we get to heaven, we are going to be right in His midst. He is going to be our God and we are going to be His people. We are going to have His name on us. We are going to be able to worship

Him forever. We are going to see Him one day. I have never seen Him here. I have never seen Him with these eyes. However, I know, I know that He is alive.

How I know He is alive...First of all, I believe the record of His Word. I believe the record of the Bible. I believe what the Bible says. Donnie preached that He was seen alive after His passion, after His suffering, by many infallible proofs. Do you know what that means? Those are things that could not be disputed. Things that could not be explained away. Jesus Christ was seen alive after He died. One time was by 500 brethren. He was seen by Paul on the road to Damascus. He was seen by James and Peter when Peter and Cleopas were on their way down to Emmaus. They came back and said, "The Lord has risen indeed and appeared unto Simon." Do remember reading that? That is there. Isn't it?

We know He appeared. We know the testimony and the record of the Bible is true. I believe that. However, something as great as that, or maybe greater than that; I know that He is alive because I know He is alive in here. I know that He dwells in here. I know He is in here. Does that mean that I will always feel Him? Does that mean that I will always sense Him? It doesn't mean that at all.

As I told you the other day, we were going to school and we were almost to school, and Ellie said, "Papaw, aren't you going to pray?" Sometimes we forget about things and get our minds on other things and we don't even think about Jesus or church, or the Bible, or things like that.

However, I know when I meet with Him—I have a place that I meet with Him at—do you know what I know? I know He meets with me there. Amen! When I get this book out and read this book, this Bible, it may be out in the garage, it may be on the hillside, it may be sitting up here on the swing up here, it may be sitting here on the floor; but when I begin to read His Word—His Word is alive, and His Spirit that is within me will bear witness unto this Word that it is truth. Amen! He is alive. He empowers us. He helps us. He strengthens us to do things that we can't do.

How many times in your life if have you been saved...how many times have you done things and got up and testified or testified to someone...and did something that you thought "I would never be able to do that." Yet, when we allow the Lord to work through us and empower us, we can do things that we never imagined we could do.

[John 20:28](#) And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

Thomas understood now. He saw who He is. He saw that He is the Lord.

I hope that you know Him today. I hope that you know Jesus Christ in a personal way. I hope it is just more than a head thing. I hope it is just more than—I have heard the story about Zacchaeus. I have heard about the flood. I have heard about Moses and the bulrush. I hope the story and I hope what you know about God is more than that. I hope it is more than being able to quote John 3:16, or Psalms 23, or some other

scripture. That kind of a relationship won't get you to heaven. The relationship that we have to have is a personal, one on one relationship where He is dwelling on the inside.

Get this. I know some of you folks have not been saved very long. There are some things you will learn as you go along. The more you read, the more you study, the more you come to church, the more you expose yourself to the Word of God; do you know what you will do? You will start learning more about Him. You will get more familiar with the voices that you hear in your head. We hear a lot of them sometimes. Do you know what you will be able to do? As you read, study, pray and seek His face, you will be able to start discerning. That voice I am not going to listen to. That voice is wrong. That voice is trying to lead me the wrong direction. Amen! You will be able to learn those things. That is called discernment. We need it. amen! I need discernment. I need it every day. Every day we need discernment.

John 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, **Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**

Blessed means spiritually prosperous. Again, I haven't seen the Lord with my natural eye. However, I am blessed that I know that He lived, He died, and He got up from the dead. I wasn't there when He was crucified. I read His book. I wasn't there when He raised from the dead. I read His Bible. Do you know what I know? I know He died. I know they buried Him. I know He got up from the dead. Do you know what I am today? I am blessed, I prosper spiritually. Christian people prosper spiritually when we believe that. Amen! When we believe that. We don't have to see. Faith is not seeing. Amen! Faith is simply believing. I know He died. I know they buried Him. I know He got up from the grave. I believe that. Do you know what that makes us? That makes us spiritually prosperous people. Blessed.

John 20:30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Salvation is in the name of Jesus Christ. Salvation come; there is no other name given under heaven among men, whereby we must be saved, other than the name of Jesus Christ. He is the One that saves. He is the One that redeems. He is the One that cleanses. Jesus Christ does that.

If you are here tonight and you are not saved, this would be a great time for you to make things right with God. Jesus calls. He speaks. He troubles our hearts and reminds us that He loves us and wants to save us and wants to forgive us and give us eternal life. Do you know what we have to do? All we have to do is come and say, Lord, yes, I want to be forgiven.

Come and pray—