

# The Resurrection

John 20:1-31

6.2.2024

**Central Proposition: You can know the resurrected Jesus.**

## Introduction

Last Sunday, we discovered that you should trust God because of the cross. Jesus' cross reveals God's sovereignty and His love at the same time. Although Jesus' death was certainly a great example of humble obedience to God, perseverance in suffering, and sacrifice for the sake of others, no one would believe in Jesus, no one would follow Him in His suffering if it weren't for what we'll talk about today: Jesus is alive! There are three priorities in John's account of the resurrection that act like building blocks for knowing Jesus. They are: truth, faith, and Spirit.

**1. You should acknowledge that the resurrection is true.** See John 20:2.

John and the other Gospel writers take pains to emphasize the bodily resurrection of Jesus. Persisting all the way from within a generation of Jesus' resurrection to today, there have been those who want to make something mystical and mythical out of it but, in multiple ways, John insists on the fact of the physical resurrection. Consider the ways that John highlights this.

A) The Fact of the empty tomb.

B) The Fact of the post-mortem appearances.

John wants us first of all to acknowledge the truth of the resurrection as a fact, because until we've done that, we can't move on to the next building block for knowing the resurrected Jesus.

**2. You should have faith in the resurrected Lord.** See John 20:29.

That building block is faith. Faith is not belief in the absence of evidence, but it is a particular kind of response to evidence. John wrote this book so that you could believe. You haven't and can't see what Thomas saw. You don't get to see the resurrected Christ, or touch the scars, but Jesus says there is a particular blessing for those who haven't seen and yet they believe.

**3. You should receive the promised Spirit.** See John 14:16-18; John 20:21-23.

Knowing Jesus personally means receiving the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, but the Scripture also refers to Him as the Spirit of Christ. That means that when you believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit enters your life and so, the presence of Christ resides in you. Receiving the Spirit and walking in the Spirit involve waiting. Waiting isn't just sitting around; it's praying and expecting. It's listening in faith. If you don't think God speaks or the Spirit leads, you'll probably never hear His voice or follow His lead.

## Conclusion

Our resurrected Lord wants a personal relationship with us and we've seen three building blocks toward that today. What building blocks are in place in your life and what needs to be added? Have you acknowledged the truth of the resurrection? Great! Then trust Him and believe His promises. Have you put your faith in

Jesus? Good! Then receive the Holy Spirit. Follow Jesus in His mission to this world. Wait on His presence. Pray and listen for Him. Where He goes, follow. When He speaks, obey.