

Natalie W. Bell  
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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Easter

*All I Really Need to Know About Jesus....*  
*Luke 24:36-49*

While they were talking about this, **Jesus<sup>[u]</sup> himself stood among them** and said to them, **“Peace be with you.”<sup>[m]</sup> 37** They were **startled and terrified** and thought that they were seeing a **ghost**. 38 He said to them, **“Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” 40** And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.<sup>[u]</sup> 41 Yet for all their **joy they were still disbelieving and wondering**, and he said to them, **“Have you anything here to eat?” 42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish,<sup>[u]</sup> 43 and he took it and **ate in their presence**.

44 Then he said to them, **“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” 45** Then he **opened their minds to understand the scriptures**, 46 and he said to them, **“Thus it is written, that the Messiah<sup>[u]</sup> is<sup>[a]</sup> to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses<sup>[u]</sup> of these things. 49** And see, **I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”**

Anyone remember the Robert Fulghum book from about 30 years ago, called **“All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten?”**

It included basic things we all need to know.....

Things like: *share, do not hit, clean up, apologize, and more....*

Well, what if this story is kind of a similar statement—like

**“All I Really Need to Know about Jesus I learned from the Resurrection”?**

Because this passage has truths that every Christian needs to know,

Truths that **only come** from these resurrection appearances!

Jacob Myers of [workingpreacher.com](http://workingpreacher.com) says that

In the Bible there are **six major appearances** of the resurrected Jesus on Easter day!

Jesus appears to **Mary** in the Gospel of John,

To Mary and *other women* in the Gospel of Luke,  
 Jesus appears to the two walking on the road to *Emmaus*,  
 Jesus appears *in a locked room* before the disciples, three times,  
 And Jesus appears on the *beach!*

We think Easter at this church is busy,  
 Easter was *very busy for Jesus!*

In this resurrection story, we learn *six important truths* about who Jesus is.  
 Truths we need to know,  
 And share!

Jacob Myers, workingpreacher.com, April 19, 2015

### **The 1ST is—JESUS BRINGS PEACE.**

The *context* of Easter is *darkness and fear*.

Jesus was innocently arrested condemned, and crucified!

Naturally, his followers were worried that a similar fate awaited them.

So when the risen Jesus starts appearing to his followers on Easter,  
 They are full of *fear, and doubt!*

Fear of their own futures,

And a fear about what will happen now that Jesus is gone!

They are *afraid of life without* their friend and Lord.

Have *you ever been afraid of a future without someone?* I know I have.  
 That kind of fear can be overwhelming, right?

To that kind of fear, Jesus appears and says *“Peace Be With You”*.

The disciples’ first reaction is *terror*—are they seeing a *ghost*?

And that’s when Jesus reassures them—

*“Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones ...And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.<sup>[n]</sup> <sup>41</sup> Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish,<sup>[o]</sup> <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.*

*Before* Jesus tells them to look, touch, and watch him eat,

He offers them *Peace*.

How much do we need that same peace today?

What if Jesus is saying *Peace Be With--- YOU? Today?*  
 What would that mean in your life?

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> truth in this passage is that JESUS IS PRESENT IN FELLOWSHIP.**

In the Gospel of Matthew chapter 18 Jesus says to his followers:

*Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them"*

In all of these resurrection stories,  
 Wherever his disciples have gathered,  
 That's where Jesus appears!

What does this mean for us, today?

It means that *Jesus is sitting right here in this front row!*

It means that every time we pray,  
 Every time we read the Word of God,  
 or sing in worship,  
 every time we share in communion, or the fellowship of believers,  
*Jesus is in the midst of us.*

The question is—do we *believe that?*

What if we were to *leave a seat open*----for Jesus?

Because he's here!

But, do we speak and listen and act like he is *right here with us?*

Does what we *say and do HONOR him*—whenever we gather?

A sign in my kitchen says:

*Christ—is the center of our home—a guest at every meal,  
 a listener to every conversation.*

Thinking about that puts things in perspective,  
 and it helps us remember to *do everything to the glory of God.*

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Truth here is that JESUS IS ALIVE.**

The risen Jesus is *NOT a ghost.*

This was so important in Jesus' resurrection appearances—

This is why he says *Look, See, Touch* my scars.

See that it is I myself!

This is why he says “*do you have something to eat?*”

And he eats—right there in front of them!

This is key---because ghosts don't eat or drink!

And a ghost does not have flesh and blood,

A ghost does not have a body you can touch and feel.

The truth is, Jesus is just as alive as you and I!  
 He is ***NOT just a spiritual Christ***—he is the living God!  
 The Living Savior.  
 Alive in our hearts,  
 Guiding us, directing us, giving us the power and presence of God!

***Do you believe that Jesus is alive—in your heart, today?***

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Truth about Jesus is the JESUS HAS SCARS.**  
 His resurrection ***does not erase the scars*** of his suffering on the cross.  
 He lives, WITH the scars.

There's a beautiful song called *Scars*, by I Am They...  
 about the scars of Jesus, and our scars.  
 Listen to some of the words:

*Waking up to a new sunrise  
 Looking back from the other side  
 I can see now with open eyes  
 Darkest water and deepest pain  
 I wouldn't trade it for anything  
 'Cause my brokenness brought me to you  
 And these wounds are a story you'll use  
 So I'm **thankful** for the scars  
 'Cause without them I wouldn't know your heart  
 And I know they'll always tell of who you are*

*I can see, How you delivered me  
 In your hands, in your feet  
 I found my victory  
 I'm thankful for your scars  
 'Cause without them I wouldn't know your heart  
 And with my life, I'll tell of who you are*

***Jesus embodies the love of God—BECAUSE he has scars.***  
 Jesus suffers WITH us.  
 He didn't have to suffer, he CHOSE to do that.  
 And he did it all out of love.

So many people say they cannot believe in a God who sent his Son to die on a cross.

But what if Jesus died on the cross, *all out of LOVE?*  
What if it was *love that defeated sin and death*, not an angry God?

*I cannot believe in a God who doesn't understand suffering,*  
Who doesn't suffer with us.  
Because so much of our lives involve suffering.  
None of us escapes it—  
it's part of living in this broken, fallen world,  
with broken people,  
until Jesus comes again to make everything whole,  
and redeem everything and everyone.

We usually want to *HIDE our scars and suffering.*  
We often feel like we *need to come to church* with only a happy face,  
And a *mask* on.

But what if we are called to be real? And authentic?  
Just like Jesus?  
Not that we have to share our pain with everyone,  
but what if we are called to share it with some,  
To bring hope? And help?  
To bring empathy, compassion, or healing?

Pastor Phillip Martin compares the risen Jesus to displays at the Museum of Natural History in D.C. Because he remembers how his young daughters wanted to reach through the glass and touch everything!  
Philip Martin, A Sermon for Every Sunday, April 18, 2021.

But he says,  
*“Jesus is the exhibit and there's no display case to keep people from touching him. In fact, he invites us to ‘Touch and See’, offering himself to us....with his scars.*

Jesus' scars comfort his disciples.  
But I wonder, do we allow them to comfort us, today?  
And how can we allow OUR scars to comfort others?

**The 5<sup>th</sup> truth is that JESUS' LIFE AND RESURRECTION help us UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE**

Remember the story of the Road to Emmaus in Luke 24, just before this passage?

Two disciples are walking down the road, and Jesus joins them, but they don't recognize him. Then he talks with them, explaining the scriptures, and finally when they stop and break bread together, their eyes are opened to who he is!

Here in verse 44, after he ate in their presence, *Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me ... must be fulfilled."*

<sup>45</sup> *Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures.*

In other words, after Jesus brings peace, comfort and assurance, He *opens our minds to understand* the Word of God.

The Resurrection of Jesus is more than just a promise for us, And it's more than just picture of the eternal life that awaits each one of us.

The Resurrection is *like a pair of glasses*, To help us read and understand the Bible.

Now that we know Jesus is alive, we hear God's words differently, don't we? Imagine hearing Isaiah talking about the suffering servant, and how his bones were crushed for us, and by his stripes we are healed.... and that is the END of the story!

Imagine the Bible *without the good news* of Jesus' resurrection! Or without the LIFE of Jesus?

Can you even imagine a Bible without the Gospels?

Without Paul's letters and words about Christ?

What kind of book would it be WITHOUT the life and resurrection of Jesus?

**The 6<sup>th</sup> and final truth is that WE ARE WITNESSES— AND THE GOOD NEWS IS FOR EVERYONE!**

After Jesus opens their minds to understand scriptures,

Jesus says to his followers:

*“Thus it is written, that the Messiah<sup>[2]</sup> is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day<sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness is to be proclaimed in his name **to all nations**, beginning from Jerusalem.*

*<sup>48</sup> **You are witnesses<sup>[2]</sup> of these things.** <sup>49</sup> **And see, I am sending upon you** what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”*

What does this mean **for YOU and I today?**

It means that we are still called to be witnesses,  
and to share the Good News about Jesus—with everyone around us!

We all have **a sphere of influence**—people who look up to us, who listen to us—  
who are those people in YOUR life?

How can you **share God’s love?**

How can you **share stories of God’s power** in your life?

And what about sharing your **scars?**

**Jesus died, and was raised** from death on Easter,  
That we might have new and everlasting life---  
life with meaning, hope, and purpose.  
Life with his love and grace.

Friends, hear the Good News of the Gospel today:

**All We Really Need to Know about Jesus---we learn from his resurrection!**

We learn that he brings **peace**, and is **present** when we gather.

He is truly **alive**, and he has the **scars** of his suffering.

His **life and resurrection help** us understand the Bible,

And we are all called to be **witnesses to him.**

**May we live in these truths and Good News.**

And all God’s people said together, Amen.

