

SERMON NOTES

May 8, 2011

R. Bryan Richardson, preaching

You Might Believe: Resurrection for Skeptics

John 20:24-31

Resurrection: the finest hope one could ever envision

v. 26—“Peace be with you!”

- Jesus opened up a new possibility for the human race.

Skepticism: the response of the human mind to the concept of resurrection

v. 25— “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

- In one way or another, we’re all Thomas.
- Skepticism can’t afford to dismiss the evidence, or it becomes arrogance.
- Arrogance puts a person in danger, because arrogance refuses to deal with the universe *as it actually is*.

Resolution: the end of the great anxiety

v. 31—“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

- The Bible never asks people to believe its truth claims in a vacuum.
- Faith is going where you don’t know on the basis of what you do know.
- Our understanding of how we can know things has become very small.
- You can *know* that Jesus rose from the dead back into bodily life. And when you know, you might believe, and live.

John 20:24-31

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" **27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **31** But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.