

4-30-25 – Behind Closed Doors

Luke 24 was Rd to Emmaus story, “while talking about it, Jesus stood...”

- Luke was not a 1st hand witness, John was.

John 20:19-29 – what happened after. This is evening of the resurrection.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

John 20:19-29 – the disciples gathered together behind locked doors.

Why? Fear of the Jewish leaders; happened to Jesus could happen to them.

- Q - who to trust? Who to talk to? They **stayed together/closed doors**
 - Us, too – we often stay together; talk only to each other. Fear?
 - “**Jesus talk**” might kill a job offer, a promotion, relationship . . .
- ① **truth: if Jesus can’t be a part of it, you don’t want it.**
 - Constant turmoil, inner battle, not peace if living 2 lives.
 - Peace is Jesus w/ us. Peace is living openly.
 - That’s our mission ... to let our lights shine.

② To help them believe . . . to know He’s real, **Jesus shows his scars.**

- We usually try to **hide our scars**. Brave face. Tough.
 - Scars form as part of healing. Never go away – so we remember.
 - And some scars are on our hearts, not visible.
- **Showing** our scars/testimonies **help others believe in Jesus**, too.
 - He heals. Restores. 2d chances. New life. Forgive. Impossible!
 - **2 Cor. 12:9-10** - “**My power is perfected in weakness.**” So it’s b/c of Jesus - “when I am weak, then I am strong.”
 - Affirm to yourself & others, “I can do all things thru Christ who gives me strength.” That’s why **you’re still standing.**
 - So **show your scars**. Badge of honor. It’s testimony.

③ In this dark time of life, just like on the road to Emmaus, **Jesus shows up.**

- **Locked doors can’t keep Him away from us.** He loves us too much.

- He's the **Shepherd** who leaves 99, goes searching for the **lost sheep**.
 - **We get lost** - lock away in grief, doubt, anger... He's still there.
 - **Rev. 3:20** – “I stand at the door and knock.” - Locked heart may keep Him out, but He'll keep trying. **Keep Knocking**.
 - How long before you open the door?
 - **Rest of Rev. 3:20** – “If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him & will dine w/ him, & he w/ Me.”
 - ▶ Means – **Jesus feeds us, nurtures us, restores us.**
 - **John 6:35** - “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” **Rainbow**
 - **No matter what, Jesus will show up. God winks: He's there.**

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.”

4 **We're both strong & weak.** We believe & we doubt. **Complex beings!**

- **Thomas/Didymus** (Greek/Aramaic “twin) earned the nickname “Doubting Thomas.” Not fair. **His character is more.**
- Earlier, Thomas was ready to go into hostile territory and die w/Jesus (John 11:16). He's courageous & good, but carried a weakness.
 - A believer can be spiritually strong one moment and spiritually deflated the next. . . **Jesus showed Thomas grace.** Gave/needed.
 - Mother Teresa struggled w/doubt. Canonized saint. She **showed the way to peace:** reach for Bible... pray... “phone a friend” . . . don't be idol . . . and **give yourself a break.**

⑤ “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

We’re the people Jesus blessed: those who have **not seen & believe**.

- Some people want proof of Jesus. To see/touch something.
- But “we walk by faith, not by sight” - [2 Corinthians 5:7](#)
- “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” – **Heb. 11:1**
 - **God is patient** w/ us, but faith is built on confidence in the unseen.
 - **The wind is unseen, but we see it’s effect.** So we believe it exists. Lives changed are b/c of Jesus. **Let others see the Jesus in you.**

²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them & said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

⑥ Forgive sins? **Only God can forgive sins;** Jesus could, too as Son.

- Jesus doesn’t grant that power to His disciples. Look in context:
 - Jesus said, “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”
 - The One sent by God now sends others to share the good news:
 - Jesus died for our sins; He is the way to salvation.
 - *“If you don’t have faith in me for who I am, you will die, and your sins will not be forgiven.”* [John 8:24](#)
 - Jesus’ last command was to share message of love/forgive

⑦ Jesus sends us, too.

- We are sent to share our stories . . . **show our scars.**
- Before Jesus showed His scars, disciples were not in a good place.
 - Showing His scars gave them hope; faith; they believed.
 - Showing our scars will help other people. Faith renewed. Hope for tomorrow! Christian walk strengthened.
 - Scars show healing happens... get through it w/Jesus.
 - **They are a testimony to the work of Jesus.**