

A Strange Kind of Happiness (John 20:19-31)

Introduction: “*Cross or crucifix?*”

- I. THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF A *STRANGE KIND OF HAPPINESS* IN CONNECTION WITH JESUS’ CRUCIFIXION
 - A. In all of the resurrection accounts, there is a similar pattern
 - B. Fear (and sorrow due to Jesus’ death) --- Joy (when meeting the risen Jesus) --- Faith (a confession of who Jesus really is) --- Commission (given by Jesus to the person to “spread the news!”)
 - C. This is true of today’s Gospel account in **John 20:19-21** with Thomas & the other disciples, with a curious difference...
- II. WHEN THOMAS & THE OTHER DISCIPLES SAW JESUS’ CRUCIFIXION WOUNDS, THEY HAD A *STRANGE KIND OF HAPPINESS*
 - A. We might expect Jesus’ crucifixion wounds would bring them shame or bitter memories
 - B. But St. John tells us they had a *strange kind of happiness*
 - C. This is because Jesus’ crucifixion wounds showed His love for them
 - D. Martin Luther’s exclamation at the foot of a large crucifix: “*For me! For me!*”
 - E. This is also the testimony of many Bible texts: **1 Corinthians 1:23-25; 2:2**
 - F. Thus is the testimony of a Pastor named Norman when He stood on Mt. Calvary...

Conclusion: *The hymn writer Isaac Watt’s strange kind of happiness in his great hymn: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*



Cross or Crucifix?

The Crucifix above the altar in Trinity’s sanctuary.