



SERMON OUTLINE FOR APRIL 27, 2014

“Holy Happiness”

John 20:19-31

INTRODUCTION: “*Cross or crucifix?*”

- I. THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF A *HOLY 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)
Witness (the person is asked by Jesus to “spread the news!”)
 - C. This is true of today’s Gospel account in **John 20:19-21** with Thomas & the other disciples.

- II. WHEN THOMAS & THE OTHER DISCIPLES SAW JESUS’ CRUCIFIXION WOUNDS, THEY HAD *HOLY HAPPINESS*
 - A. We might expect Jesus’ crucifixion wounds would bring them shame or bitter memories
 - B. But St. John tells us they had a *holy 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. This is the testimony of a Pastor named Norman when He stood on Mt. Calvary . . .

CONCLUSION:

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