



SERMON OUTLINE – APRIL 8, 2018

Easter Joy

(John 20:19-31)

INTRODUCTION: *The (in)famous Sunday after Easter . . .*”

I. THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF AN **EASTER JOY** 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, with a curious difference . . .

II. WHEN THOMAS & THE OTHER DISCIPLES SAW JESUS’ CRUCIFIXION WOUNDS, THEY HAD AN **EASTER JOY**

- A. We might expect Jesus’ crucifixion wounds would bring them shame or bitter memories
- B. But St. John tells us they had an **Easter joy**
- 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 Charles Wesley’s Easter joy in his great hymn: “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”*