



## **HAVE YOU UNLOCKED THE DOOR YET?**

**Scripture: John 20:19-31**

It has been one week since Easter Sunday when we said: Alleluia, Christ is risen. John's account mirrors the major points of the resurrection narrative as described in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

One week since the chaos and excitement, one week since the empty tomb, and where are the disciples – still in the same room behind locked doors.

If the resurrection is such a life-changing event, why are they still stuck in the same place. Has anything for them changed?

Let me ask – where are you after the resurrection? Are you in the same place? Has the resurrection changed anything in your life?

Did you expect to wake up on Monday morning to a whole new life and world, and perhaps realize that nothing had changed or did you think it was because the resurrection had failed or because Jesus didn't do "the Jesus thing" in your life?

Our Scripture tells us:

1. Christ's resurrection is a big deal.
2. The empty tomb is a life changing event.
3. The resurrection does make a difference in our lives BUT it takes time.

Resurrection takes time – it is not a one-time event. It is something that we grow into. It is a process, a way of being and a life to be lived.

By the grace of God we evolve into resurrected people through our relationships and the circumstances of our life. Yet it is not always an easy journey – some days are difficult.

**Let's explore the difference between facts and stories to help us understand the resurrection story.**

Facts are one dimensional; inform the mind; transmit information and are static, like a snapshot of a particular moment in time.

On the other hand, stories are multi-dimensional; touch the heart; transform lives and are dynamic, like a movie that takes us across time.

The empty tomb is a fact – the resurrection is a story – a movie of our life instead of a snapshot of Christ's life.

The fact of the empty tomb is not the story of the resurrection, it is the starting point for the resurrection story.

The facts of Jesus' life are not the story of Jesus.

The facts of your life and my life are not the story of our life.

**What facts do you know about the disciple Thomas?**

Do you only believe he was just a doubter – unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe.

That maybe the only fact you know about Thomas.

But this was just the starting point for his resurrection – it is not the whole story.

Do you know the end of Thomas' story? Do you know where he died? He died in India. He was the apostle to the people of India. He brought the gospel of Christ to India. He died a martyr after he was run through with 5 spears by 5 soldiers.

That doesn't sound like a doubter to me – it sounds like someone who grew and changed, for whom the resurrection of Christ was real and for whom the empty tomb made a difference.

**It just took a little time, as it does for most, maybe all of us.**

So there was a doubting Thomas but let's not forget confessing Thomas who said – My Lord and My God. With those words Thomas recognized and named a new relationship, new worldview and new way of being.

You see somewhere between Doubting Thomas and Confessing Thomas is the story of resurrection in Thomas' life. His initial disbelief was just his starting point.

### **What is your starting point? What are the facts of your life today?**

The starting point is “whatever is!”

Whatever your life is today; whatever your circumstances are – that is the starting point for your story of resurrection.

But there may be things keeping you locked behind your doors, just like the disciples. They separated themselves and their lives from the reality of Jesus' resurrection. Their doors of faith had been closed – they shut their eyes to the reality that life was now different.

They left the empty tomb of Jesus and entered their own tombs of fear, doubt and blindness and sealed their tomb – but from the inside.

Today you may be experiencing deep loneliness, sorrow and loss – that is your starting point – that is the room which Christ enters.

If you have locked yourself inside a house of fear, confusion and darkness – that is your starting point and the place in which Jesus stands.

If illness, old age, disability or uncertainty are facts of your life – that is your starting point and the place in which Jesus shows up.

If you feel lost, betrayed, disappointed, overwhelmed – that is your starting point and the house Jesus enters.

If joy, gratitude and celebration are the facts of your life – that is the starting point for your story of resurrection.

There are many ways the doors of our house get locked. Whatever it might be for you, it is just the starting point.

When we consider the disciples, it would have been a tragedy if they had stayed in the same house behind the same locked doors. But they didn't – that was just their starting point.

### **What are the doors that are locked in your life?**

What are the things that have kept you stuck in the same place?

Don't judge it as good or bad – right or wrong. This is just where you are and it is the place Christ shows up.

Our Scripture told us Jesus showed up twice while the disciples were inside with fear and trembling. No locked door could keep Him out. No locked door can keep Him out from you.

Jesus is always entering the locked places of our lives. He comes unexpected, uninvited and sometimes even unwanted into our closed lives, closed hearts and closed minds.

He steps into the midst of our house, through the locked doors and breathes peace, life, hope, courage and strength into us. And that breath of peace is the key that unlocks the door.

So take a deep breath, take it all in, let it fill and enliven you.

Let it give you the hope, courage and strength to unlock and open the doors of your life and step outside into His life.