

Living in the light
of the resurrection

John 20:19-20



Gretchen Ronnevik

- "On a recent road trip, we stopped by one of my mom's best friend's house for the night. Doreen was a woman at our church who had adopted my mom when she was a single parent. I didn't realize she wasn't my aunt until I was 9 or 10.

Gretchen Ronnevik

- During our visit, I poured out to Doreen my fears and struggles as a mother during our visit. I told her that I pray for my kids and I read so many parenting books, yet I still had so much fear and insecurity.

Gretchen Ronnevik

- “She paused and thought awhile. With adult children, nearly adult grandchildren, she had seen so many methods and fads, and she had spent hours if not years on her knees in prayer, she told me “Pray that they will be able to tell the difference between the truth and a lie. This is so foundational.”

Pilate ask the question of Jesus, “What is truth?”, scoffingly

- Hear what Pilate is saying, “Truth is always hidden, You can’t trust what you think is truth, I may not like what truth is showing me, I will create my own truth.”
- Jesus had already answered this question in **John 14:6 NIV** “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
 - What is truth? Jesus...Life...Way

John 8:12 NIV When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

- Jesus said there is only one pure light of truth in this world, and it is Him
- “Whoever follows me” and receives His truth unfiltered, accepts it unquestionably and practices it consistently will never walk in total darkness again

John 8:12 NIV When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

- In those times where darkness tries to hide or obscure the truth, we must wait faithfully and confidently until the truth is made clear and then walk forward in it
 - The temptation is to set out walking before the truth is clear

The disciples were living in obscured truth following the resurrection of Jesus

- There was plenty of evidence to a factual, physical resurrection of Jesus
- Jesus' own words, Biblical prophecy, Empty tomb and wrappings, Angels, Individual sighting of the risen Savior
- The disciples were letting the truth of Jesus' resurrection be fogged by their own doubts and fears

John 20:19-20 NIV

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.

The lie of the smoke detectors going off in the middle of the night

- The first thing I did was jump out of bed and breath deep to answer the question, “Do I smell smoke?”
- Then I grabbed the flashlight and checked out every corner of our house – always the same breath then light
- After checking the whole house, the smoke alarms went off

The lie of the smoke detectors going off in the middle of the night

- I laid in bed, unable to sleep, breathing and checking for smoke
 - Why? I already had shown light everywhere and no fire
 - The lie of the smoke detectors was still in my mind, ears and emotions
 - This is where we find the disciples this morning

The lie of the cross is still fresh in their eyes

- Seeing with Resurrection Light we can see the cross is lying to the disciples
- What is the cross saying to them?
 - Jesus is dead along with all our hopes, dreams, security, peace
 - **Vs. 19** the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders
- They are asking the same question Pilate did, “What is truth?”

The lie of the cross is still fresh in their eyes

- Resurrection Light has been shown
 - Jesus said He would rise again on the third day
 - The tomb was empty with grave wrapping still there
 - The guards gone
 - Jesus has been seen
 - But they are still checking for smoke

The lie of the cross is still fresh in their eyes

- Their eyes that stop at the cross and tomb
 - The cries, “Crucify Him” still rang in their ears
 - Their individual actions still festered in their hearts
 - They were living in their unanswered questions rather than the truth shown them

The lie of the cross is still fresh in their eyes

- They had walked with Jesus 3 ½ years and they still did not know him
 - How will Jesus react to us failures?
 - What does this all mean?
 - What about me?

The lie of the cross is still fresh in their eyes

- What lie is still fresh in your eyes, what voice is still fresh on your ears, what action continues to obscure your life in Jesus?
 - You are a failure
 - You were a mistake
 - You will never be a good spouse, parent, friend
 - You will never overcome that
 - God will never fully forgive you for that

The lie of the cross is still fresh in their eyes

- Shine the light of the resurrection into those lies and see the truth Christ offers you

They were probably living in “I hope so” faith

- “I hope so” faith is immature faith or faith that must be seen before fully accepted and believed
 - This is where we all begin as new Christians
 - We learn who Jesus is and what He has done
 - We begin to learn what He has said and promised
 - We begin to learn how to live like He would in 2021
 - But none of this has been proven in our lives yet
 - There is very little peace with “I hope so” faith

They were probably living in “I hope so” faith

- The text says the “doors were locked in fear”
 - Now if you really believe there is a risen, physical Jesus you would be waiting in expectation, not fear
 - We must allow ourselves, under God’s hand, to mature our faith in God’s Word, Provision and Promises
 - Only then will peace that passes all understanding come into our lives

They were probably living in “I hope so” faith

- This is what God was doing with Israel in Egypt
 - If God could bring them out of Egypt like He did, then He will take care of them on the journey
 - Every place where faith was to be extended, they complained to and about God
 - They were not walking in the light of God’s revelation to them

They were probably living in “I hope so” faith

- Satan will keep your faith in “I hope so” unless you choose to exercise your faith and let God work it into your events of life
 - It is remembering who we are in Christ Jesus
 - It is remembering where we stand in Christ Jesus
 - It is remembering what has been provided to us in Christ Jesus
 - And fighting the battles of faith with light rather than darkness

Only when they got a true look at Jesus did they release their fears and believe

- The first physical sight of Jesus did not help their fears
- They were fearful to begin with and suddenly seeing Jesus with them heighten their fears
- So, seeing the physical Jesus did not calm their fears or bring faith into their lives
- I don't even think the words of Peace Jesus said brought peace

Only when they got a true look at Jesus did they release their fears and believe

- So, what brought peace into their fears or what caused them to fully believe?
- When Jesus showed them his hands and side
- He showed them His scars for them
- They got a true look at Jesus
 - Not a religious look (Pharisees), worldly look (Romans), not even a what I think look (Pilate)

Only when they got a true look at Jesus did they release their fears and believe

- So, what brought peace into their fears or what caused them to fully believe?
 - A true look at what Christ had done for them
 - This brought an over abundance of joy into their fears
 - Did they know everything about the event?
 - The only thing they knew was Jesus is alive and that was enough

Only when they got a true look at Jesus did they release their fears and believe

- **Vs. 20** “They saw Jesus” They saw with understanding
- Notice there is no condemnation from Jesus here
- This is the start of His disciples living in the truth of the Resurrection

This is where we must start as well

- Are you living in the light of His resurrection?
- Have you looked at the hands and side of Jesus through the eyes of the Apostles and said, “For me”?
- Are you living by faith or are you still living by sight like the disciples were doing?
- Joy and peace came when they “Saw Jesus”, not with their physical eyes but their eyes of faith
- That is still the way it must be done today

This is where we must start as well

- **1st John 1:5-6 NIV** 5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

This is where we must start as well

- There is no darkness in God
- If you are living in God defined sin, then you are not living out the truth
- If you are walking in the light where Jesus is at, then you have fellowship with Him and each other light-walkers and you are being purified from all sin
- Now the choice is yours

Living in the light
of the resurrection

John 20:19-20

