

What Resurrection Looks Like

John 20.19-31

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "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." ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

REFLECTION

Because Thomas was not present with the other disciples when Jesus first showed himself to them in the locked room, he asks for evidence in order to believe that Jesus had really been resurrected – thus his nickname, "doubting Thomas." We sadly almost skip right over Thomas' exalted response, "My Lord and my God!" (v.28) due to the sheer implications of a nickname. **Do you think Thomas' nickname is accurate? Why might it be unfair to reduce Thomas to doubt?**

Jesus is clearly patient with Thomas' doubts, and graciously invites him to touch his obvious wounds (v. 27). One of the deepest types of connection is through our wounds. We feel more human and less alone when someone shares a vulnerable part of themselves. **Why is it comforting to you that Jesus was recognized by his wounds? When have you experienced a powerful connection with others through your wounds?**

Kintsugi, the spiritual and artistic practice of repairing broken teabowls, highlights imperfections with a golden laquer, making the cracks part of the story rather than hiding them. This is true of the resurrected Christ, and true of what Christ came to do in each of us. Everything in life has cracks, and thankfully like Jesus, we don't have to hide them. **Where do you need to acknowledge your brokenness? Where do you see light already coming through the cracks?**