

April 1 | Sunday

Easter: Overcoming Our Fears with Jesus' Peace

Read [John 20:10-23](#)



02 | Mon – Yeah, right | Read [John 20:24-29](#)

Yesterday we celebrated Jesus' resurrection. Today it's back to real life. Thomas was not present when the risen Christ appeared to the other 10 disciples. His response was unbelief. Was Thomas a realist? Or maybe the disappointment and grief were so great that his faith was crushed? Whatever the reason, Jesus did not judge him but instead met Thomas right where he was at. Have you experienced this pain when *your* prayers were not answered? When *your* hopes or dreams were dashed? Be honest about it. Jesus will meet you there.

03 | Tue – Consider this | Read [Luke 24:13-32](#)

Deep in conversation about the events of the last few, Cleopas and his traveling companion were trying to figure out what had gone wrong. Questioned by a stranger who joined them, they revealed confusion as they "had hoped Jesus of Nazareth was the One but..." Their perspective began to change, however, as the stranger gave them evidence from Scripture. Have you ever changed your view of something as you gained new understanding from reading God's Word? It is a good source to consider.

04 | Wed – The bigger picture | Read [Acts 1:1-3](#) and [1 Corinthians 15:3-8](#)

When Jesus died, his followers were left with many unanswered questions. Imagine what amazing conversations he had with them in the 40 days following his resurrection. Is it possible that they had been so focused, before he died, on how Jesus was going to defeat the Romans and free the Jews from tyranny that they missed the point? Is it possible we do the same? Being so intent on a temporary relief, we miss the 'more' that God has for us?

05 | Thu – About-face | Read [Acts 4:13](#) and [Matthew 5:6](#)

Whatever happened in the 40 days between Jesus' resurrection and his return to heaven, it changed every one of his disciples. From "scramble-to-save-their-own-skin" cowards into boldly courageous men who would not keep quiet about this Man even though it meant they would be killed. Does knowing Jesus have that effect on you? It can happen to anyone who earnestly and intentionally seeks to know the real Jesus.

06 | Fri – Where did *that* come from? | Read [Acts 2:43](#) and [5:12-16](#) and [9:32-43](#)

It was the Holy Spirit who filled the disciples with such power, such compelling speech, and the ability to fearlessly proclaim truth, confronting sin in whatever form it presented itself. They did what Jesus had done - healed the sick, freed those captive to Satan's oppression, raised the dead, preached good news - just as Jesus had foretold before his death in John 14:11-13, and it changed the world. Would you be willing for God to use you in this way if He chose to do so?

07 | Sat – The message | Read [1 John 4:9-12](#)

Jesus used miracles to alleviate suffering because of his great love for people but also to get their attention so they would listen to what he had to say..."God loves every single one of you, even though you feel like a failure or an outcast or unnoticed by others. God cares about everything that concerns you. He wants you to become his child, by your own choice, and He will go to this extreme in order to open up the way for you to know Him." That became the disciples' message and this is our message as well. If you believe it, tell someone.