

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:19-21

Does Easter Really Matter?

...How the Resurrection of Jesus Reaches Into Our Lives

For the "Connected" ...

- Acts 3:1- *One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon.*
2- *Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.*
3- *When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.*
4- *Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"*

For the "Challenged" ...

- 5- *So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.*
6- *Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."*
7- *Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.*
8- *He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.*
9- *When all the people saw him walking and praising God,*
10- *they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.*

For the "Curious" ...

- 11- *While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade.*
12- *When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"*
13- *The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go.*
14- *You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.*
15- *You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.*
16- *By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.*
17- *"Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders.*
18- *But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer.*
19- *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,*
20- *and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.*
21- *He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets*

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