

# SERMON NOTES

Ps Nathan Bean  
Nexus Church  
05 APR 2026

Resurrection Sunday

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## opening prayer

Begin your group time by thanking Jesus for His sacrifice and the Resurrection, asking Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and reveal deeper truth to each person present.

## overview

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### *Three Historical Facts About the Resurrection*

- **Women were the first witnesses.** All four gospels record this, despite women having no legal standing in that culture.
- **The disciples' transformation.** They went from cowards hiding in fear to courageous martyrs.
- **The lost tomb.** Unlike 50+ other venerated tombs of that era, no one preserved Jesus' tomb because they had Jesus Himself.

## discussion

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- 1** Which of the above historical facts about the Resurrection stands out to you most, and why?
- 2** The sermon mentioned that the work of Jesus is often perceived as so *natural* that we miss the *supernatural*. Can you think of examples of this in your own life?
- 3** Why do you think the gospel writers included potentially embarrassing details about themselves (Peter's denial, the disciples' cowardice, etc.) instead of editing them out?

## go deeper

The Resurrection of Jesus stands as the cornerstone of our faith. Ps Nathan's message traced the three historical facts from the preceding page, which anchor the Resurrection in reality.

These are not merely historical curiosities but evidence of something genuinely supernatural. Yet the most compelling truth is that an empty tomb alone does not produce saving faith; transformation comes only from personal encounter with the resurrected Jesus.

Through Mary Magdalene, we see that Jesus calls us by name and sends us out with purpose. Through Thomas, we learn that our doubts and preconditions for faith shrink when we meet Jesus face to face. Through Peter, we find hope that our failures do not disqualify us from the restorative work of His love. The Resurrection is not just an event we commemorate; it is an ongoing invitation to encounter the living Christ.

## bible study

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### *Three Personal Encounters We Need:*

1. **MARY** - Jesus Calls Your Name.  
↳ Read and discuss **John 20:1-18**
2. **THOMAS** - Drop Your Preconditions  
↳ Read and discuss **John 20:24-29**
3. **PETER** - You're Not Disqualified  
↳ Read and discuss **John 21:1-17**

## application

### 1. **MARY** - Jesus Calls Your Name

- Encountering the risen Christ produces saving faith. He calls us by name and sends us out, meaning we can't remain insular carriers of the gospel.

### 2. **THOMAS** - Drop Your Preconditions

- Faith means our questions shrink in light of Jesus' love for us. It's vital that we encounter the Lord for who He is in spite of our preconditions.

### 3. **PETER** - You're Not Disqualified

- Our biggest barrier isn't intellectual, it's unbelief - the idea that we're not worthy of His love. Jesus restores us despite our failures and denials.

## prayer points

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As a group, pray for each person, one at a time. Pray for personal encounter with the Lord around:

- Being called by name
- Letting go of preconditions
- Unbelief
- Courage to *get out* and share their faith

## scripture memory

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**John 12:32** - "And I, when I am lifted up [*exalted*] from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

# MORE RESOURCES

Resurrection Sunday

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*This sermon is fundamental to what we believe about God and, in turn, ourselves. Personal encounter with the Lord may be confronting to some, while others may feel embarrassed/ashamed if they've never encountered Him. Just as Thomas, most of us wrestle with questions. Be vigilant to remove stigma, encourage the lifting up of Jesus and the seeking of His face!*

Prayer/praise report from your group? Anything else you think we should know? [Click here](#) to pass it on to our Pastoral Team so we can address it in our weekly meeting.

## deep dive: unbelief

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Scripture warns us about unbelief. It is described as blatantly as *sin* (John 16:9) and as *not knowing God* (John 8:19, 24). Yet, it is discrete, easy to mask, and perhaps most confrontingly of all - easy to miss within ourselves!

Meditate upon, discuss, and pray together into the following passages:

**John 20:29** and **Mark 9:23-25**

## additional questions

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1. Of the three encounters (Mary, Thomas, or Peter), which resonates most with your current spiritual journey, and why?
2. Has Jesus *called your name* personally? When did you move from knowing about Jesus to knowing Him? If you haven't had that encounter, what's holding you back?
3. What preconditions or unanswered questions have you been holding onto before fully surrendering to Jesus? How might an encounter with the risen Christ change your perspective?
4. Have you ever felt disqualified from Jesus' love? How does the message to "*tell the disciples and Peter*" speak of Christ's definitive work when compared to your situation?