

SIX RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION: JOY (#4)

John 20:20

Questions

1. (Ice-breaker) Can you think of an example of the *post hoc ergo propter hoc* (“after this therefore because of this”) fallacy besides the “rooster syndrome” (thinking the rooster causes the sunrise simply because the sunrise always occurs right after the rooster crows)?
2. (“After he had said THIS” [see verse 19].) **The resurrection as a sign of VICTORY.**
 - a. What is the closest parallel in your own experience to everyone hugging and kissing in jubilation as occurred in August 1945 in Times Square where the famous picture of the sailor kissing the nurse occurred?
 - b. What set off your celebration, and how did you feel in the midst of it?
 - c. The annual harvest celebration that Psalm 126 reflects is also something of a “victory” celebration. What other modern situations evoke rejoicing because of some kind of “victory”?
 - d. Why do Jesus’ resurrection and the victory over sin and Satan it represents not fill you with more joy right now?
3. (“He showed them HIS HANDS AND SIDE.”) **The resurrection as a sign of RECOVERY.**
 - a. Why did Jesus’ hands and side indicate that he was a goner?
 - b. What circumstances in your life in the past may have indicated that you would never have joy again? How have you recovered?
 - c. From what current circumstances in your life does the resurrection indicate you can still have future recovery and the joy that comes from it?
4. (“When they saw THE LORD.”) **The resurrection as a sign of IDENTITY.**
 - a. Is there anyone else the disciples would have rather seen that Sunday night after the crucifixion (cf. Luke 24:19-21; John 6:68; Matthew 16:13-16; Mark 10:28; Luke 14:26)?
 - b. Who would bring you great joy to see again today, because of separation by death or distance, regardless of your current circumstances?
 - c. Have you ever heard of “Bear” Bryant? Does it surprise you to learn that this rough, tough, gruff football coach once made a famous South Central Bell Telephone commercial that ended with the words, “Have you called your mama today? I sure wish I could call mine.” Why or why not?
5. (“The disciples were OVERJOYED.”) Do you think they were overjoyed because of the resurrection or simply after it? Why?
6. (Conclusion) “What has happened to all your joy” (Galatians 4:15)? David said on Sunday that the true measure of one’s belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is one’s current joy. Do you agree or disagree? Is there anything this verse (John 20:20) teaches you can do this week to increase your genuine joy?