

Second Sunday of Easter – 2025

Saturday, 4/26 at 4:00 | Sunday, 4/27 at 9:00

# Why Is Jesus So

# IMPORTANT

Text: John 20:19-31 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: **He is risen!** (*He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*) Jesus being risen is **powerful** and **amazing**:

- Some believe and are richly blessed!
- Others need today's gospel reading about Thomas!

1. **The Resurrected Jesus:** <sup>19</sup> **When therefore it was evening [just before sundown], on that day [Sunday], the first day of the week [the day Jesus was raised], and when the doors were shut [locked, barred] where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”** <sup>20</sup> **And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples therefore rejoiced when they saw the Lord.**
  - a. Are You Living In Fear? Going back to that first Easter Sunday, *the fearful disciples were behind locked doors. Why?* They naturally thought: Jesus has been crucified, *and we might be next!*
  - b. Why Should We Be at Peace? **Because God is greater than death!** Since Jesus died and was raised, we should live with no fear of death – *because death is not the end! When Jesus comes, He will raise us!*

2. **Instruction, Forgiveness, and Unbelief:** <sup>21</sup> Jesus therefore said to them again, “Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” <sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained.” <sup>24</sup> But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples therefore were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

a. Are You Living with Purpose?

- i. ➡ **The Father** sent the Son to take away our sins.
- ii. ➡ **The Son** sent the Apostles to call people to repent and believe.
- iii. ➡ **The HS** is calling us to point to our great God, *who changed our next stop from hell to heaven!*

b. Can We Announce and Withhold God’s Forgiveness?

Yes! **Lenski noted these key points** (1377-1378):

- i. Jesus gave all His disciples the power of the keys – *not only the ten* (the 12 minus Judas and Thomas). The power can be used **privately** by *all Christians* and **publicly** by *pastors in their congregations*.
- ii. Jesus forgives, *not people*, but Jesus’ disciples are His agents – *He acts through them*.
- iii. Since we cannot see into a person’s heart, we must consider ➡ what he says and ➡ what he does.

c. What Is Faith? **Hebrews 11:1** “...faith is... the conviction [*confident assurance*] of things not seen.”

3. **Blessed Ones:** <sup>26</sup> **And after eight days [Sunday to Sunday] again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, “Peace *be* with you.”** <sup>27</sup> **Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing.”** <sup>28</sup> **Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”** <sup>29</sup> **Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? *Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.*”**

a. Thomas Demanded Visible Proof: *So, Jesus provided it for him.* Thomas is the go-to example today for all who demand visible proof. May such people ♦put on the shoes of Thomas, ♦see the risen Jesus by faith, and ♦believe in Him as *their Lord and their God!*

b. Have you seen Jesus? I have not, yet – *by the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit* – I believe! People who have not seen and yet believe are richly blessed! If that is not you, get into the Bible in a serious way and the Holy Spirit with gift you with saving faith!

4. **Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing:** <sup>30</sup> **Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. // Life can be *so busy* and *so complicated*, but let’s keep the main thing the main thing.**

- a. **Believe Jesus Is the Christ:** “Christ” means “Messiah” and “Anointed One” – He:
- i. Was promised in Eden!
  - ii. Guided by a pillar of fire and of cloud!
  - iii. Appeared many times as the Angel of the Lord!
  - iv. Was born of a virgin!
  - v. Taught with authority!
  - vi. Worked countless miracles!
  - vii. Suffered and died to pay our eternal penalty!
  - viii. Now lives forevermore!
- b. **Have Life Eternal through Jesus:**
- i. We Know the Bad News: We ♣have sinned and ♣are helpless to save ourselves.
  - ii. We Focus on the Good News: Jesus is the Christ, *the only way to the Father, so, by God’s grace,* ♣we trust in Him alone, ♣we have eternal life now, ♣we live in peace, and ♣we look forward to an amazing eternity!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Jesus, *our Risen Savior*, of all the people and all things in this complex world that draw our attention, *You are infinitely more important!* Therefore, help us to ♣put You first, ♣trust You most, and ♣tell others what You have done!

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com); **YouTube and Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”  
**Facebook:** “Bethlehem Parma” / **Pastor:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915  
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230