

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on April 1, 2018:
Easter Sunday**

**"Faith then Peace and life:
A Glorious Day Has Dawned (Resurrection)
(John 20:1-22, 30-31 NASB)"**

[In today's sermon on Easter Sunday, Pastor Craig Kuhlman shows that when we put our trust and faith in the resurrected Jesus, He gives us His peace that we can't obtain anywhere else.]

Notes

Introduction:

- Good morning everyone – Happy Easter!
- Happy Resurrection Day!
- We are here today because of what Mary, Peter, John and the other disciples experienced that Sunday morning.

- So the message title today is “Faith, then peace, then life: a glorious day has dawned – Resurrection.”
- It's important to know that faith, peace and life come in that order.
- We begin with faith and then peace becomes a part of us.
- And this peace is not the kind of peace that this world provides, which we can work up on our own, but rather this is the very peace that Jesus Christ offers to all of us.

- Now there is a lot we can worry about, which gets us down.
- In Jesus' economy, He never takes those things away from us, but He provides us with His peace – the kind of peace that Paul says, “surpasses all understanding”, which helps us through our worries.

- The recent Gallup Poll asked people for their top 15 worries on the minds of Americans.
- The top 2 are the availability and affordability of health care; then the economy.
- Out of that list of 15, a total of 7 were financially related.
- But you know that Jesus provides us His peace.
- But those, who don't have a faith-based relationship with Jesus, seek to deaden their worries through alcohol, drugs or medication.
- But these don't alleviate what causes the discomfort.
- It's Jesus who gives us that peace that we cannot attain anywhere else.
- And, as we'll see today that Mary, Peter and John were at various stages of faith and belief, just like we are today.
- Now, the more we are growing in that faith and belief, that peace grows deeper.

FAITH/BELIEF/BELIEVE

- Greek: Pistis [4102] (noun) firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing.

- Greek: Pisteuo [4100] (verb) to believe, to be persuaded of and hence to place confidence in, to trust and rely upon.
- So, when we say we have faith or belief in Jesus, it means that we truly have a conviction and a persuasion that we can rely upon Him and trust in Him and yielding and surrendering to Him.

PEACE

- Greek: Eirene (1515) the harmonized relationships between God and man accomplished through the gospel (wholeness); the sense of rest and contentment; set at one again; the absence or end of strife.
- When we are at peace, then we are living in relationship with God with no fear, no shame, no guilt and no doubt, because of what Jesus did in His Incarnation to bring us into a relationship with God.
- And it's all brought about by Jesus' resurrection.
- This day has central meaning not only in our lives but in all Christian lives through church history.
- So do we, individually, have that faith which brings unimaginable peace, indescribable peace?
- When we face those health care concerns, or those money concerns, can we sit back and relax because we know that God loves us?
- Remember that the two purposes of Scripture are belief and then response.
- So faith and belief requires a response which is not something we work up, but is the response of the Holy Spirit through us.
- And so when we look at faith, belief and peace in light of the resurrection, we see that the message of the Gospel began with the plan of salvation and that the Father, Son and Spirit had this parachoretic or ontological relationship, face to face, in love.
- And they loved each other so much, that they wanted to spread that love to all of humanity.
- And then Jesus, in His life on earth through His Incarnation of birth, life, death, resurrection and then ascension accomplished that for all of humanity.
- So because of this, we can say that everybody is included, redeemed and reconciled in their relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit.
- And the only thing that is left is the Holy Spirit working with us, calling our name and reaching the point where we hear His voice and respond, "Yes."
- And with that, then peace and life become real.
- And, as a result, the life we live today has a whole new reality.

John 20:1-2 (Faith Eclipsed):

John 20:1, Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. 2) So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to

them, **“They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”**

- When Mary saw that Jesus wasn't in the tomb, she became horrified and ran back to get Peter and John.
- Because of this she was panic stricken.
- We will see that when she wept, it was a gut-wrenching “I don't know what to do” kind of crying.

John 20:3-10 (Faith Dawning):

3) So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. 4) The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; 5) and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in.

- As we'll see, John was much cautious than Peter was here at the tomb.
- John didn't enter the tomb, but Peter did.

6) And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7) and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. 8) So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. 9) For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. 10) So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

- John was the first one to come to belief.
- Mary stayed back at the tomb when Peter and John went back home, because she was so distraught.
- To her way of thinking, to leave would be giving up.

John 20:11-18 (Faith Shining):

11) But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; 12 and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.

- Scripture describes this as two angels there. But Mary's reaction, obviously, was she just saw two people there.

13) And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” 14) When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.

15) Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”

- Even though she had known Jesus for quite some time and was probably one of His disciples, she didn't recognize Him because of her emotional distress.
- And because of her grieving, her thoughts were disjoined at this point, for she couldn't have carried away a corpse all by herself.

16) Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). 17) Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

- When Jesus calls our name, something supernatural happens – peace fills us, life enters us.
- Jesus wasn't rude to Mary in wanting her to not continue to hang on to Him.
- Rather, He wanted Mary to share her understanding with others that He had, indeed, rose from the dead.

18) Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.

- So we see that Mary had snapped out of her heart-felt grieving and had faith, she had belief.
- Jesus was sending her to His disciples to share this good news and she responded.

John 20:19-22 (Peace Restored):

19) So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20) And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21) So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

- Peace was what Jesus offered and provided to the disciples.
- The disciples had life concerns – they were in fear of the Jews that they, too, would be taken and crucified.
- Now the peace that Jesus gives us is the peace that changes us.
- And when we have the peace of Jesus, we can't help but see things differently.
- And the fears and concerns that we have about life become less so when we feel God's presence in the peace that Jesus provides.

22) And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

John 20:30-31 (Faith, Peace, Life):

30) Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31) but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Concluding comments:

- That's the Gospel.
- There is no other way to God but through Jesus and what He did on Resurrection Sunday.
- And John 12 tells us that through Jesus' ascension, He is drawing all people to Himself.
- The Holy Spirit reveals what Jesus did for us and calls us out.
- And the peace that Jesus gives us is not natural but something supernatural.

- And as our belief grows and our faith grows, we receive that peace through the Holy Spirit which changes our life.
- Now what did Jesus ask the disciples to do in response? He said, "I send you."
- So, what did Mary do? Mary came and comforted her fellow disciples, by saying that Jesus is alive.
- And so we offer love, we offer help, we offer assistance; we share our story and our testimony of faith with others about what happened on Resurrection Sunday.

- Now we're going to participate in the Communion, which acknowledges the shed blood and broken body of Jesus Christ for all of us.
- By doing so, we acknowledge that we hold to that faith.
- After services, pastor Craig offered that if the Holy Spirit has spoken your name and you feel like that faith is being stirred in your heart and you want to invite that peace into your life, come and talk with him so you can come into that relationship with God.

Closing Prayer

Communion by Assistant pastor Celestine Olive:

- In the phrase, "covered by the blood of Jesus", it's a poetic simplification of a very complex issue.
- Another phrase that can also be offensive is, "being washed by the blood of Jesus."
- Neither one of these phrases is meant to be taken literally.
- They are meant to describe the effect of accepting the Lord's death as payment for our sins.

- Saying that we "are covered by the blood" means that we know the Lord's death, on our behalf, protects us from the penalty we would otherwise deserve for our sins.
- In other words, Jesus has got us covered.
- The song, "Covered by the Blood" that the choir will be singing, as we come forward to pick up the elements of Communion, expresses this life changing message of redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- In Hebrews 10:19-22, we read:

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20) by a new way and living way opened to us through the curtain, that is, His body. 21) And since we have a great priest over the house of God 22) let us draw near to God

with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

- At this time, Celestine uncovered the elements and asked God’s blessings on them.