



## CELL GUIDE

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|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>TOPIC</b> | "I Have Seen the Lord!" Have You? | <b>SPEAKER</b> | Ps Low Kok Guan  |
| <b>THEME</b> | Resurrection Weekend              | <b>DATE</b>    | 8 & 9 April 2023 |

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

In this Resurrection Sunday message, Ps Kok Guan challenged the church to reflect on whether we have seen the Lord Jesus and responded in obedience to what He says. Our Lord is alive and not in the tomb! Jesus's disciples have seen the empty tomb and the risen Jesus. John chapter 20 differentiates three differing levels to "see" – Blepei (taking a first look [Jn 20:1,5]); Theorei (observing carefully [Jn 20:6]); and Eiden (seeing with understanding [Jn 20:8]). Jesus is interested in what is inside of us and desires for us to seek Him, see Him, and respond in obedience to Him.

## THE WORK OF OUR RESURRECTED CHRIST

Jesus rose from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Through the eyes of Mary Magdalene, the disciples, and Thomas, we find three areas that God wants to work in our lives:

### 1) Comfort our Hearts

Mary lingered on at the tomb weeping after the disciples had left. She was the first to arrive at the tomb and the last to leave. Being the first eyewitness to see the resurrected Lord Jesus, God blessed Mary to be the first person to carry the wonderful message of "Jesus is alive!"

Mary witnessed the two angels, a picture of the Ark of the Covenant and the mercy seat between the two cherubim – a representation of the presence and power of God in the tomb. Jesus asked Mary, "Why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?". "Whom are you seeking?" is the same question Jesus asked the soldiers who sought His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knew Mary was seeking Him out of devotion, not betrayal. Mary initially addressed Jesus as "Sir", then as "Rabboni", and finally as "Lord". Mary was initially filled with grief and wept with tears of sorrow, but when she left the tomb, she had joy and gladness in her heart. Jesus had done a transformative work in Mary and had comforted her heart.

Jesus told Mary not to cling to Him and said He would be ascending to His Father and our Father, to His God and our God. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the redemptive work on the cross had been accomplished. Jesus had reconciled man to God, and we now have the same Father and God.

## 2) Calm our Fears

On the evening of Resurrection Sunday, the disciples gathered, and had locked the doors in fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said to them twice, "Peace be with you." He ministered to them gently and calmed their fears – fear of the Jews; fear of seeing Jesus who was previously dead. Jesus breathed on his disciples and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." This is a picture of new creation and the presence of God wherever His Holy Spirit is. Jesus gives us not only peace with God but also life anew in Himself. No God, no peace. Know God, know peace.

Having seen Jesus and having received and experienced the peace of God themselves, the disciples can now preach and proclaim the message of peace to others. Jesus tells his disciples to preach the message of peace and the forgiveness of sin in Christ; and warned of the consequences of rejecting God.

## 3) Clear our Doubts

Thomas experienced real doubts that we can identify with. Doubts and feelings such as sadness, lost, disappointment, and discouragement after his master Jesus died. He had not witnessed and experienced Jesus first-hand like what the rest of the disciples had on the evening of Resurrection Sunday. Jesus kindly, gently, and graciously invited Thomas into his presence to feel his wounds and believe. Thomas shifted from a position of doubt to a position of conviction. He proclaimed Jesus as his Lord and God.

Jesus appeared to Thomas and the disciples eight days later. God is not in a hurry to clear our doubts. Yet when God does clear our doubts, the Holy Spirit empowers us to walk by faith and not by sight. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believe (Jn 20:29). It is walking by faith that pleases the Lord.

## CONCLUSION

The signs and miracles of Jesus point us towards Himself. We believe in Jesus not because of His signs and wonders, but because of our faith. Believing in Jesus Christ, the son of God, will give us eternal life.

Through the experience of Mary, the disciples and Thomas, we see how Jesus lovingly comforts our hearts, calms our fears and clears our doubts with the peace of God. The heart of God longs for us to abide and draw close to Him. When we deliberately and intentionally seek God, we will see God and find Him. We can then experience Jesus and proclaim the God of peace to those around us.

# QUESTIONS

1. Mary's encounter with Jesus showed His desire to comfort us when we are sad. God knows how we feel, and He desires to comfort our hearts. Share a situation where you were at a difficult place and you sought the Lord for comfort. What did you do to seek Him and how did the Lord comfort you during that time?

2. God wants more than our service and labour. He wants us. Many have seen the Lord. In the midst of living our busy lives, what has distracted us from pure devotion to Jesus Christ? How can we focus on Him whole-heartedly?

3. In the world today, what are the fears that sometimes occupy and paralyse us? Who do you know is struggling with fears and need to experience God's calming peace? What steps can you take to proclaim God's peace to this person?