

A Sceptics View

John 20:19-28

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. John 20:30

Into the Lesson:

Have you ever wondered about some of the “unspoken” responses to some of the events of Passion Week? How was the preparation made that didn't seem to take those involved by surprise?

Mark 11:1-6-

Mark 14:12-15-

Mark 15:21- (Granted, Simon of Cyrene may have not been a willing participant)-

Does John 21:25 provide a sense of wonder that we've only seen a small slice of “Big Picture”?

Into the Word:

Reread John 20 and mark the four sections Lane spoke of in his sermon (and thank him for his restraint in *not* making a sermon of each section:

John 20:3-9 (do you think John is getting a little payback for his remarks about “second place Peter”?)-

John 20:10-18 (although John was really second to Mary)-

John 20:19-23-

John 20: 24-29-

How does Thomas, “the hardened sceptic” provide us a picture of someone willing to ask the hard question in John 14:5 to get at the central truth of the issue (v.6)?

Of the “snapshots” Lane suggested what (or who) do you think would have been the main topic of conversation?

Respond to Lane's comment, “the atmosphere is charged...”.

How would the realization that “we may be next” indicate they were having a hard time “wrapping their heads” around the idea of Jesus' resurrection?

How would Jesus' arrival (without opening the door) have provided a blast of fresh air?

How does Phillip's experience in Acts 8:38-40 give a small sense of our resurrected bodies (or at least New Testament teleportation)?

After reading John 20:19-22 try to describe how the “charged atmosphere” had switched to a “changed attitude”?

Have you ever wondered what Jesus' breath smelled like?

Into Life:

Respond to Lane's statement, “Some people make a choice about Jesus without examining the evidence personally...”

How does Thomas' response provide a template for us to begin the process of showing others who Jesus really is?

What are some of the indications that we live in a culture that seems willing to remain in their “intellectual arrogance”?

What must change in our lives for the Resurrected Life to manifest itself in our daily experience?

INTO THEIR FEAR HE GIVES THEM
PEACE - and INTO THEIR
CLUELESSNESS HE GIVES THEM
PURPOSE - and INTO THEIR EMPTINESS
HE GIVES THEM POWER...