

Sermon  
Rev. Lang Yang

**“Unless I see, I will not believe”**

Second Sunday of Easter  
Redeemer Lutheran Church – Grawn, MI  
4-12-15

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

**John 20:25** *“So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”* (Cross reference – Psalm 22:16, Marke 16:11, 13; 16:14, John 20:20, 27)

Illustration “Unless” (Show the suicide note)



A suicide note was found beside a dead 18 years old girl. In the note it said, “I made a pact and agreement with God. Unless God made something happen within a year’s time to make my life worth living, then I’d quit living.” She close the note by saying, “That wasn’t too

much to ask, was it?” Christians and non-Christians alike are tempted to play the “Unless” game. “Unless God does this, then I won’t believe.” Or “Unless God does that, then I’m giving up.” (Show picture of doubting Thomas)



*“Unless I see, I will not believe.”* Those words were spoken by the disciple Thomas – also known as ‘doubting Thomas’ and ‘Didymus’ as we known him. After Jesus resurrected and appeared to the disciples Thomas wasn’t there. They told him that they had seen the Lord, but he didn’t believe it. Many today reject the resurrection with the attitude “I’ll believe it when I see it with my own eyes.”

I. It should not be surprised that many of us want proof in order to believe. When we asked God to help and it hasn’t been answer, we mostly likely to asked “Where is God when I need Him? (Show the hand that pierce)



Is there really a God and does he even existed? Our faith is tested when we doubt that God will be there for us. Like the disciples, we want proof that Jesus did resurrect from the dead. In a sense, when Jesus appeared to his disciples, he had to show proof to his disciples. *“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side.”* (John 20:19-20)

If we see someone that has die and came back to life, it probably shocked us. The disciples were filled with grief and sorrow after their Lord was nail to the cross, die and was buried. (Show women)



WHY SEEK YE THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD? HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN: REMEMBER HOW HE SPAKE UNTO YOU WHEN HE WAS YET IN GALILEE. - LUKE 24:5-6

They were devastated and because they were his disciples, they were hiding out for fear of the Jews.

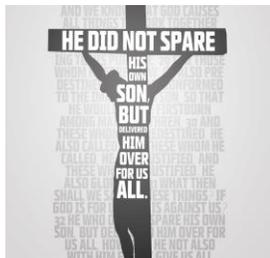
But when the women brought oil to the grave site, the angel told them, “*He is not here; he has risen!*” (Luke 24:6) The women return and told the disciples. Luke wrote, “*But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.*”

(Luke 24:11) The disciples were saying, “*Unless I see*

*it, than I will believe.*” But after Jesus appeared to them with proof, that He is alive – He has risen, “The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” (John 20:19-20)

- II. Brother and sister in Christ Jesus, how important is the resurrection to you if Jesus has not risen from death? Are you still doubting and say “*Unless I see it, I will not believe.*” Christ has risen indeed. It is hard to understand but because of your faith, you believe the living God in Jesus Christ and not other prophet that still laying in their tomb. Even you don’t see it with your own eyes, your trust that Jesus is the Savior of the world. The Apostle Paul write, “*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is **unseen**, since what is seen is temporary, but what is **unseen** is eternal.*” (2 Corinthians 4:18)

(Show Romans 8:32)



Because of God’s love for you, He doesn’t want anyone to be condemned but come to repentant and trusting in His Son Jesus Christ. We don’t have to see his miracles or power to believe Him. When Christ show his hand and his side to his disciples is good enough for you and I. The love He show in Christ, He willingly gave His son to suffer so you may have life. The Apostle Paul write, “*He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all*”. (Romans 8:32)

The disciples realize what God has done through Jesus was the proof of his resurrection. They went from defeat, fear, and cowering to courageous because, Jesus was alive! “*We have seen the Lord!*” (John 20:25) they said. And because they saw, their lives would never be the same, and the world would never be the same.

(Show Jesus appearing to His disciples)



They witnessed the most spectacular event in human history, the son of God paying for sins with his death, and than proving it by coming back from the dead. “*Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”* (John 20:21-22) Now it was their mission to go and proclaim the Good News to the world.

- III. Do you believe of the resurrection? There was once an Irish landlord whose vast estates dwelt a number of very needy tenants. Upon becoming converted, this wealthy man was anxious to make clear to these people the marvelous provision God had made for their

salvation. So he posted in prominent places on his wide domains, notices to the effect that, on a given day, he would be in his office down by the lodge gates, from ten o'clock in the morning until twelve noon. During that time, he would be prepared to pay the debts of all his tenantry who brought their unpaid bills with them. For days the notices were the cause of much excitement. People talked of the strange offer and some declared it a hoax. Others were certain "there must be a catch somewhere." A few even thought it indicated that the landlord was going out of his mind, for "who had ever heard of any sane man making such an offer?" (Show the Irish Landlord)



When the announced day came, many of the people could be seen making their way to the office, and as the time approached a great crowd had gathered about the door. Promptly at ten the landlord and his secretary drove to the gate, left the carriage and, without a word to anyone, entered the office and closed the door. Outside a great Discussion had begun; it became more

vehement every minute. Was there anything to it? Did he really mean it? Would he only make a fool of one who brought the evidence of his indebtedness? Some insisted that it was his actual signature at the foot of the notices, and surely he would not dishonor his name. But an hour passed and no one had gone in to present his claim. If one suggested to someone else to venture, he would be met by the angry response, "I don't owe that much. I have no need to go in. Let someone else try it first—someone who owes more than I do!" And so the precious moments slipped away. (Show Old couples)



Finally, when it was nearing twelve o'clock, an aged couple from the farthest bounds of the estate came hobbling along arm in arm; the old man had a bundle of bills clutched tightly in one hand. In quavering tones he inquired. "Is it true, neighbor, that the landlord will be paying the debts of all who come today?" "He ain't paid none yet," said one "We think it is just a cruel joke," said another. The old couple's eyes filled with tears. "Is it all a mistake? We hoped it was true and thought how good it

would be to be able to die free of debt." They were turning disconsolately away, when somebody said, "No one has tried him yet. Why not go in? If he pays your bills, come out quickly and tell us and we'll go in, too." To this the old folks agreed and timidly opened the door and entered the office, where a cordial welcome awaited them. In answer to their question as to whether the notice was true, the secretary said: "Do you think the landlord would deceive you? Let me see your bills." (Show 12 noon)



They were all presented, carefully tabulated, and a check made out to cover them. Overwhelmed with gratitude, the old man and his wife arose to leave, but the secretary said: "Just be seated. You must remain here till the office closes at noon." They explained that the crowd outside was waiting for verification from them of the strange offer. But the landlord said, "No, you took me at my word. They must do the same if they want their debts paid." (Show Paid in Full)



And so the minutes passed. Outside, the people moved restlessly about, watching the closed door, but none lifted the latch. At high noon the door opened and the old folks came out first. “Did he keep his word?” the people asked.” Yes, neighbors. Here is his check and it's good as gold. It is paid in full.” “Why didn't you come out and tell us?”

angrily asked many. “He said we must wait inside and you must come as we did and take him at his word.” (Show it is too late?)

## Is it too late?

A moment later the landlord and his secretary came out and hurried to the carriage—the crowd pressing about them, holding out hands full of personal bills, and crying, “Won't you do for us as you did for those folks?”

But rising in his carriage, the landlord said, “It is too late now. I gave you every opportunity. I would have paid for you all, but you would not believe me.”

Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. (Show go and share Jesus to others pictures)



It is not too late for me and you. Many culture had not heard the Good News of Jesus Christ. The harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. No matter where they live. How rough the road are. It doesn't matter how you get there. Go and share Jesus Salvation to others. They do not have to see to believe. The Holy Spirit will call them to faith. Your job is plant the seed, water with God's word and God will make it grow. (Show Thomas)



Do you believe of the resurrection or unless you see with your eye? Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth and the life, no one come to the Father except through me.*” (John 14:6) Eventhough you may not see, you hear what Jesus say to Thomas, “*Stop doubting and believe. .... Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed*”. (John 20:27-29) (Show my Lord and my God!)



Thomas said to him, “*My Lord and my God!*” May the Lord bless you eventhough you have not see. Because of your faith in Jesus Christ, you are blessed. And this blessedness is His grace, mercy, and love, that you already have life in Him forever and ever. And you will have no doubt and you will not say “Unless I see I will not believe” but you will said, “*My Lord and my God! – I believe*”. Amen. Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.