

A photograph of the Crown of Thorns and a wooden plank on a sandy surface. The Crown of Thorns is a tangled mass of dry, brown, and sharp thorny branches. The wooden plank is a piece of weathered, light-colored wood. The background is a light-colored, sandy surface. The text "Easter Series" is written in a gold, cursive font in the upper right corner.

Easter Series

Moments that Matter

He Is Risen

Moments that Matter

He Is Risen

Celebrate the Risen Jesus

On Friday:

- betrayal
- trial and sentencing
- scattering of disciples
- crucifixion and death
- troubling natural disasters
- temple curtain torn in two
- burial and posting a guard

Early Sunday Morning

Moments that Matter

He Is Risen

John 20:1-30 “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in

Moments that Matter

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⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.

Moments that Matter

He Is Risen

¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she 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.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).

Moments that Matter

He Is Risen

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her. On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Moments that Matter

He Is Risen

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld. Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Moments that Matter

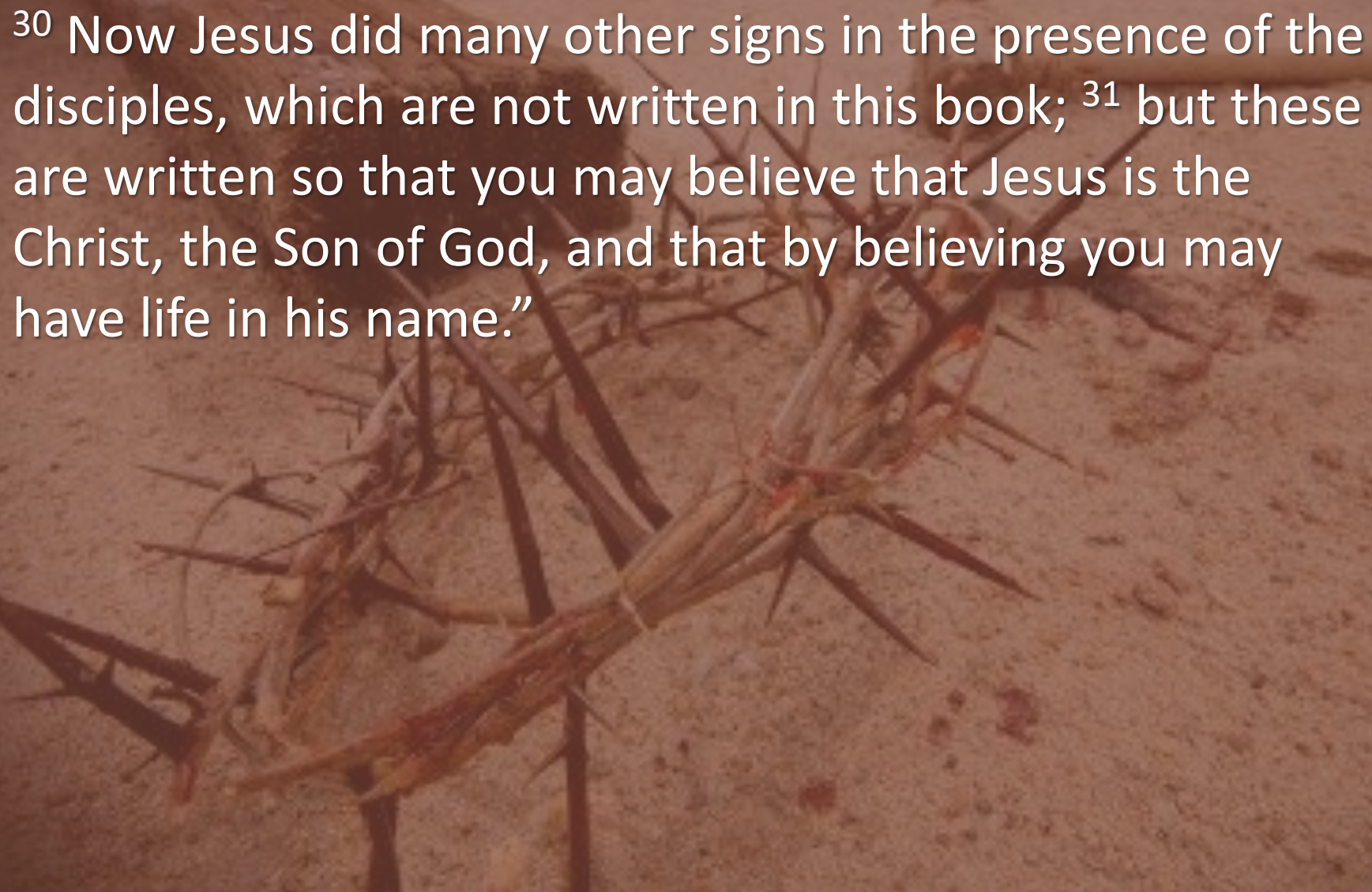
He Is Risen

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Moments that Matter

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³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”



1. Discovery 1-10

a) by Mary

- significance for testimony of the day

b) the footrace

- Peter & John, restored relationship possible

c) clear proof

- graveclothes folded, body clearly gone

2. Declaration vs.12-29

a) to Mary

- care and concern, be my witness to them

b) to the Disciples

- peace be with you
- not over, I am sending you out
- going with power & authority

c) to Thomas

- care for those who doubt, Jesus seen clearly
- blessed are those who believe & not see

Moments that Matter

He Is Risen

3. Clear Purpose vs. 30,31

- a) Disciples clearly shown the truth
- b) Written so you would know and believe
- c) By believing you might have life

4. Don't Miss This

1 Cor. 15:1-11...

Moments that Matter

He Is Risen

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

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⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.”

Moments that Matter

He Is Risen

a) Christ died for our sins

- predicted and promised
- testified to by Jesus

b) Resurrection a Historical and Provable Fact

- appeared to disciples
- over 500 witnesses
- brother James, I am a witness

c) we preach so you might believe

- essential to your forgiveness of sin, eternal life

So What?

1. Human Perspective

- a) explain away the body missing
 - stolen, wrong tomb, not dead, conspiracy
- b) stamp out the pesky believers
 - keep them under the law
 - enslaved to rules, religion, earning your way
 - motivated by guilt, fear, obligation
 - seed misinformation – disbelief & doubt
 - possibly true – non essential to relationship with God and payment for sin

2. God's Perspective

- a) Problem of Sin & Separation Solved
 - lamb of God takes away sin of the world
- b) Risen Christ & Indwelling Holy Spirit
 - invitation to hear truth & believe
 - invitation to receive forgiveness & freedom
 - invitation to follow – live as empowered children of God, responding in love
- c) Promise of Return and Reign
 - coming back for His bride, ruling and reigning forever

3. Your Choice – Romans 10:9-13

⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”