

## E-Series

### Have You Seen Easter?



*1 That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched**--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have **seen it and testify to it**, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We **proclaim to you what we have seen and heard**, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete. —1 John 1:1-4*

Someone once asked [Mark Twain](#) if he believed in infant baptism. His response was priceless. “Believe in it? [Edit] I’ve SEEN it.”

Well, this past Sunday, I invited you to ponder the question: Have you seen Easter? In reality the more accurate question is: Have you **seen** evidence of Easter?

On the very first Easter Sunday evening, the disciples got to see firsthand evidence of Easter. They were all gathered together (minus Thomas and of course Judas), huddled with the door locked, hiding, when Jesus showed up. He told them to keep faith. He was alive, raised from the dead, and had the scars to prove it.

Unfortunately for the more scientifically-minded Thomas, he wasn’t there. He declared that he couldn’t believe his friends’ outlandish story unless he saw indisputable proof. He’d have to put his fingers in the nail holes and put his hand in Jesus’ side.<sup>1</sup>

In his grace, Jesus shows up again a week later to repeat the scene for Thomas. Then he believes.

In the passage above from 1 John, John tells us that he has heard, seen, looked at and touched...He has seen it and is testifying to it. So back to our question: Have you seen evidence of Easter? Are you testifying to it?

I shared with you some evidence of Easter that I have seen. I’ve seen people who were dead in their addictions and sorrow and pain raised to new life—lives radically transformed into Christ’s likeness. I’ve seen with my own eyes things that to some might seem like coincidences but to the eyes of faith are evidences of God’s resurrection power unleashed on the earth. I’ve seen marriages raised from the dead. God is raising people and things to new life all around us if we just open our eyes.

What about you? Where have you seen evidence of Easter in your life? I’d love to hear your answers. I hope you will follow the example of John in 1 John and “testify to it.”

I look forward to receiving your responses.

Trying to Testify,  
*Pastor Michael*

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<sup>1</sup> On Sunday, I also noted that this episode also contains other connections between John and Genesis and Creation “in the beginning” and God’s continuing work of creation and re-creation after the Resurrection of Jesus. First of all, the Greek word for breathes (from John 20:22) is *emphusao* (one of the roots of our English word emphysema). Jesus *emphusao* [breathes] on them/into them. The only place that the word *emphusao* shows up in the entire Greek version of the Old Testament is in Genesis 2:7. God takes a handful of dirt and he *emphusao*, he breathes into it and makes it alive. That was way back at the creation of Adam, and, here, in the Gospel of John, something similar is taking place. Creation is happening again after the resurrection. Jesus is putting his life-giving breath into his new Body, the Church. And they’re going to need that life-giving breath because the world is going to try everything to kill the Good News of Jesus, including killing them.

Another connection to Genesis: Thomas says, “Unless I get to see Easter with my own eyes, I won’t believe. Unless I get to put my fingers in the nail marks and my hand into his side, then I won’t believe.” So, what does Jesus do? He shows up again and repeats this upper room scene all over again just for Thomas. And Thomas gets to put his hand in Jesus’ side.

That Greek word for side is *pleura*. The first place that word shows up in the Bible is Genesis 2:21. “So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s [*pleura*] ribs and closed up the place with flesh. **22** Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.”

*Pleura* can be translated either “side” or “rib.” In Genesis, at creation, God reached into our side. But here in the new creation, after the Resurrection, we get to reach into God’s side.