



# Disciples of the Way Ministries

*A Ministry of People of All Nations  
reaching out to People from All Nations*

**Easter = Cross before Resurrection**



**“Peace be with you.”** When he {Jesus} *had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you...”*

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.”* Thomas answered him, *“My Lord and my God!”* Jesus said to him, *“Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”* **John 20:19-21, 23, 27-31**

**Last Sunday** Disciples of the Way  
celebrated its first Easter

Worship. As we were getting ready to worship, one of our Muslim neighbors from Iraq, who joined us for the first time, kindly asked the question: I really want to know what is the big deal about the Resurrection in the Christian Faith anyway? For a person who comes from a religion which denies the Crucifixion (**Quran 4:175**) this question came to us Muslim Background Believers (MBB's) as no surprise at all because we too denied the Cross and The Resurrection at one point in our lost journey of discovering the truth about the One Triune God, until we were baptized and saved by faith alone in the Righteousness, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. He is Risen indeed, Halleluia!



**Our sermon text from John 20:19-31** was perfectly fitting to answer this question and many more for those who deny both the Cross and the Resurrection like doubting Thomas. During this sermon, our speaker, who is himself an MBB and who passionately denied the Cross in his former days, explained that it is impossible for anyone to believe in the Resurrection without knowing the theology of the Cross.

Jesus 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.” ... Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*



**Sorry he said,  
“No Cross, No Crown, No  
Confession of Sin, No absolution,  
No Law, No Gospel”.**

**But, let me ask you**—what difference does Easter make to you today? Does it really matter? How does it impact the way you live your life while the gentiles are watching and listening. As a matter of fact, even people who believe Jesus rose from the grave on the third day sometimes have difficulty articulating its relevancy to their lives. So, whether you are a follower of Christ or are still examining His claims, I want you to contemplate that first Easter morning—Resurrection Sunday—when Jesus appeared to his faithful followers to explore the significance of the resurrection and the difference it can make in your life

today. Consider these words: *"Peace be with you". As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you"*...Today, all around the world, Jews and Muslims greet one another with the same words: "Shalom or - Assalamo Akikum" - but yet they have no peace with God. (Rom 5:1-6)



**Jesus suffered** more than the physical torment from scourging and Crucifixion. He suffered misunderstanding, injustice, emotional pain and spiritual loneliness. Yet, he didn't allow these to be barriers or excuses for his obedience to God the Father. Jesus finished what God the Father intended for him to complete in his earthly lifetime in the Way of the Cross -- all the Way to the Resurrection.



## Our Easter Picnic at White Rock Lake



**In Islam, the Theology of Glory** teaches that sin is no "big Deal" and that we need to be self-righteous, wealthy, healthy and happy in this life. But the Theology of the Cross just can't see how things could be so good for Christians, the followers of Jesus who ended up on a Cross. I just can't see how we, the followers of Jesus Christ, could be spared evil done against us when our Lord endured so much evil on the Cross." Yet, Jesus did not stop loving, nor did he turn away from God. He finished well in the midst of suffering and evil all the way to the resurrection. Like our Muslim neighbors, many of us Christians today live the way, of the Glory, without considering what God expects of us in the way of the Cross. Jesus knew what God expected of him in good times and in bad times. When Jesus was treated unjustly, he prayed for his enemies. When one of the two criminals who were crucified with Jesus repented, Jesus forgave him. When people, including Jesus' disciples, deserted Jesus, he did not forsake them. He resolved to die for their sins anyway. Jesus did what God expected him to do.

**The example Jesus** gives us in the face of suffering and evil is to know and do what God expected him to do when he said: *"Just as the Father sent me I am also sending you."* Knowing and doing what God expects will enable us to finish well and receive the Crown of Salvation. In the face of injustice, God expects us to pray for our enemies and to help the helpless. When conflict occurs, God expects us to seek peace and reconciliation in the Way of the Cross all the Way to the Resurrection... Sorry No Pain, No Gain, No Cross, No Crown. Jesus suffered and was lifted up on the Cross in Glory to draw all sinners to Himself when he said, *"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, Glorify your name... And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."* **John 12:27-32**

**Some of our Muslim Neighbors receiving their "Comfort Blanket" after Worship**



Your support and prayers help DOW continue to bring the Gospel of Peace of the Crucified and Risen Christ to our Muslim Neighbors in Dallas, Texas!

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