

Bevis, overbevisning, tro og glæde efter påske

1. søndag e. påske, 27.4.2025 i Aarhus
www.vivit.dk/praediken. Pastor Leif G. Jensen

Evangelium: Johannes 20,19-31

Om aftenen den samme dag, den første dag i ugen, mens disciplene holdt sig inde bag lukkede døre af frygt for jøderne, kom Jesus og stod midt iblandt dem og sagde til dem: "Fred være med jer!" Da han havde sagt det, viste han dem sine hænder og sin side. Disciplene blev glade, da de så Herren. Jesus sagde igen til dem: "Fred være med jer! Som Faderen har udsendt mig, sender jeg også jer." Da han havde sagt det, blæste han ånde i dem og sagde: "Modtag Helligånden! Forlader I nogen deres synder, er de dem forladt, nægter I at forlade nogen deres synder, er de ikke forladt." Thomas, også kaldet Didymos, en af de tolv, havde ikke været sammen med dem, da Jesus kom. De andre disciple sagde til ham: "Vi har set Herren." Men Thomas sagde til dem: "Hvis jeg ikke ser nagemærkerne i hans hænder og stikker min finger i nagemærkerne og stikker min hånd i hans side, tror jeg det ikke."

Otte dage efter var hans disciple atter samlet, og Thomas var sammen med dem. Da kom Jesus, mens dørene var lukkede, og stod midt iblandt dem og sagde: "Fred være med jer!" Derpå sagde han til Thomas: "Ræk din finger frem, her er mine hænder, og ræk din hånd frem og stik den i min side, og vær ikke vantro, men troende." Thomas svarede: "Min Herre og min Gud!" Jesus sagde til ham: "Du tror, fordi du har set mig. Salige er de, som ikke har set og dog tror." Jesus gjorde også mange andre tegn, som hans disciple så; dem er der ikke skrevet om i denne bog. Men dette er skrevet, for at I skal tro, at Jesus er Kristus, Guds søn, og for at I, når I tror, skal have liv i hans navn.

Hvis nogen spørger, om det er sandt, at Jesus opstod fra de døde og vandt over døden, får vi i dag et stærke beviser. Det ene er mest til vores tanke og forstand. Det andet er mest til hjertet. Og samtidig giver Evangeliet os tro og glæde gennem Bogen, Evangeliebogen. Det er Guds gave i dag, så vi tror, at Jesus er Guds Søn

1. Beviset til tanken og forstanden

Beviset til vore tanker og forstand begynder med, at disciplene holdt sig inde bag lukkede døre af frygt for jøderne. Deres Herre og mester gennem tre år var blevet korsfæstet og var død og begravet. Hvad kunne de da vente sig? Forfølgelse, korsfæstelse og død! Derfor sad de bag lukkede døre.

Proof, Conviction, Faith and Joy After Easter

1st Sunday e. Easter, 27.4.2025 in Aarhus Gospel
www.vivit.dk/praediken. Pastor Leif G. Jensen

JOHN 20:19-31

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

If someone asks if it is true that Jesus rose from the dead and overcame death, today we get two strong proofs. One is mostly for our thought and understanding. The second is mostly for the heart. The Gospel in itself gives us saving faith and joy through the Gospel-Book. Therefore we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that he lives and with us.

1. The proof for our thought and understanding

The proof of our thoughts and understanding begins with the fact that the disciples kept themselves behind closed doors for fear of the Jews. Their Lord and Master for three years had been crucified and had died and was buried. What could they expect? Persecution, crucifixion and death! Therefore, they sat behind closed doors.

Hvordan fik de så stærkt et håb, at de efter påske forkyndte til dem, der havde korsfæstet Jesus, at han var opstået og levede? Ingen kunne jo se Jesus. Apostlen Johannes fortæller som øjenvidne, hvor de fik troen fra: fra Jesus, som var opstået! Johannes skriver til os i evangeliet: *Mens dørene var lukkede, kom Jesus og stod midt iblandt os og sagde til os: "Fred være med jer!" Da han havde sagt det, viste han os sine hænder og sin side. Vi blev glade, da vi så Herren.*

Det er en gåde, at disciplene gik ud i verden og fortalte om Jesu opstandelse med risiko for at blive dræbt, hvis Jesus ikke var opstået. Så ville de have levet på en bevidst løgn. Hvem vil dø for en løgn? Men de blev alle dræbt for troens skyld. Så tåbeligt, hvis Jesus ikke var opstået fra de døde. De fortalte om Ham, som er LIVET, det evige liv!

Det er et bevis som udfordrer vores fornuft, når den anser det for umuligt. Og der er ingen fornuftig forklaring andet end, at det er sandt, at Jesus opstod fra de døde, og at han havde lidt døden for dem, for deres synder, og var hos dem som dødens sejrherre. Jo, virkelig! Det er godt at tage med sig os som døbtte og konfirmerede kristne. Det gør en kristen fast og stærk. Johannes skriver sådan i sit brev, vi også har hørt fra i gudstjenesten i dag: *For alt, hvad der er født af Gud, overvinder verden; og den sejr, som har overvundet verden, er vor tro. Og hvem andre kan overvinde verden end den, som tror, at Jesus er Guds søn? (1 Joh 5,6)*

2. Overbevisning i hjertet

Det andet bevis er mest til hjertet. Det er til os, når vi er bange og frygter, når vi står helt alene. Og også, når vi mærker skyld og skam, og når vi behøver tryk.

Det bevis får vi, når vi hører, hvad Jesus' disciple prædikede om. De prædikede om det, Jesus havde sagt til dem den om aftenen efter sin opstandelse: Fred, fred, fred. Tilgivelse, tilgivelse, tilgivelse. Fællesskab, fællesskab, fællesskab. Håb, håb, håb. Det blev til en overbevisning for dem. Overbevisning står over tankens beviser.

Når vi frygter, når vi er skyldige, og når vi er ensomme og alene eller står overfor alvorlig sygdom og døden, har vi brug FRED, TILGIVELSE, FÆLLESSKAB og HÅB. Tre gange i evangeliet siger Jesus: *"Fred være med jer."*

1) Første gang løfter han dem ud af frygten, for de var bange. Han viser dem sine hænder og side. Han lever. Det giver dem fred i deres bange hjerter.

2) Anden gang var, da han sagde: *"Ligesom Faderen har sendt mig, sender jeg jer!"* Altså fred, så de kunne åbne døren til Jerusalem og gå trygt ud

How did they get such a strong hope, so that they after Easter proclaimed to those who had crucified Jesus that he had risen and was alive? After all, no one could see Jesus. The apostle John tells us why, as an eyewitness. Because Jesus had risen! John writes to us in the Gospel: *While the doors were closed, Jesus came and stood in our midst, saying to us, "Peace be upon you!" After he said that, he showed us his hands and his side. We were happy when we saw the Lord.*

It is a mystery that the disciples went out into the world and witnessed about Jesus' resurrection at the risk of being killed if Jesus had not risen. Then they would have risked their life on a deliberate lie. Who will die for a lie? But they were all killed for faith's sake. How foolish if Jesus had not risen from the dead. They witnessed of Jesus' death and resurrection because they believed that He is LIFE, the eternal life!

It is a proof that challenges our secular understanding it argues that is can't happen. And there is no reasonable explanation other than that it is true that Jesus rose from the dead, and that he had suffered death for them, for their sins, and was with them as the victor of death. Yes, really! It is good to take with us as baptized and confirmed Christians. That makes a Christian firm and strong. John writes this in his letter, which we have also heard from in the service today: *For everything that is born of God overcomes the world; And the victory that has overcome the world is our faith. And who else can overcome the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:6)*

2. Conviction in the heart

The second proof is mostly for the heart. It is for us when we are afraid and fearful and when we are all alone. And also when we feel guilt and shame, and when we need security.

We get that proof when we hear what Jesus' disciples preached. They preached what Jesus had said to them on the evening after his resurrection: Peace, peace, peace. Forgiveness, forgiveness, forgiveness. Fellowship, fellowship, fellowship. Hope, hope, hope. It became a conviction for them. Conviction stands above the evidence of thought.

When we fear, when we are guilty, and when we are lonely and alone, or facing serious illness and death, we need PEACE, FORGIVENESS, FELLOWSHIP, and HOPE. Three times in the Gospel, Jesus says, *"Peace be upon you."*

1) The first time he lifts them out of fear, because they were afraid. He shows them his hands and side. He lives. It gives them peace in their fearful hearts.

2) The second time was when he said, *"Just as the Father has sent me, I am sending you!"* That is, peace, so that they could open the door to Jerusalem and go

på gaden og være sammen med dem, som havde korsfæstet Jesus. For dem prædikede de om Jesus og om tilgivelsen til mennesker!

3) Og tredje gang, da deres ven Thomas var sammen med dem 8 dage efter. Thomas havde jo sagt, at han ikke ville tro det. Men da Jesus sagde: "Stik din hånd i min side og se mine gennemborede hænder." Da fik Thomas samme fred som de andre. Nu hørte de sammen. Fællesskab! Og han faldt på knæ for Jesus og sagde: "*Min Herre og min Gud!*" Tilbedelse. Gudstjeneste. Fællesskab.

3. Evangeliebogens ord giver os troen

Men hvad så med os, som ikke har følt på Jesu efter hans korsfæstelse og død? Er der hjælp til os, så vi ikke skal frygte, men kan tro og have et godt liv og det evige liv? Ja, der er hjælp! Fantastisk hjælp. Jesus siger det selv til Thomas og os andre: "*Salige er de, som tror, uden at se!*" - Og vi tænker: Ja, det er let nok sagt. Men hvordan kan vi tro uden at se?

Men så siger apostlen Johannes til os: *Jesus gjorde også mange andre tegn, som hans disciple så; dem er der ikke skrevet om i denne bog. Men dette er skrevet, for at I skal tro, at Jesus er Kristus, Guds søn, og for at I, når I tror, skal have liv i hans navn.* Han, som kendte Jesus bedre end vi gør, og som var sammen med Jesus den aften, Jesus kom til dem, siger, at Evangelie-bogen virkelig kan give os tro. Guds ord kan få os til at se med hjertet. Vi kalder det "at indse". Det er at se ind i os selv. Og det er at se Jesus i Evangeliet.

Det kan være så svært at indse, når vi har gjort noget forkert, svigtet, løjet, snydt og været selviske. Det er måske endnu vanskeligere at indse, når vi har gjort os selv til vor egen herre og afgud. Det hjælper de 10 bud os, så vi indser, indser og falder på knæ, som Thomas gjorde. Og da har vi noget at bruge Jesus til. Vi hører jo, at han døde i vort sted og bar vor skyld. Og det var lige netop det, han gjorde. Troen er sådan en overbevisning, at vi indser og ser Jesus i Bogens ord, dvs. i Evangeliet. Så gælder det for os: "Salige er de, som indser deres skyld og tror på Jesus, der døde for dem." Det trøster dit hjerte og tager angsten fra dig og giver dig håb.

4. Eksemplet i Davids bøn, Salme 30

Kig med i gudstjenestefolderen i det vers, som vi hørte fra Salme 30: ... *Herre, i din nåde gjorde du mit bjerg til en fæstning; men du skjulte dit ansigt, og jeg blev grebet af rædsel. Til dig, Herre, råbte jeg, jeg bad Herren om nåde. ... Du tog min sørgedragt af mig og klædte mig i glæde. Derfor vil*

safely out into the street and be with those who had crucified Jesus. To them they preached about Jesus and about forgiveness to men!

3) And the third time, when their friend Thomas was with them 8 days later. Thomas had said that he would not believe it. But when Jesus said, "Put your hand in my side and see my pierced hands." Then Thomas had the same peace as the others. Now they belonged together. Fellowship! And he fell on his knees before Jesus and said, "*My Lord and my God!*" Worship. Church service. Community.

3. The words of the Gospel book give us faith

But what about those of us who have not felt Jesus after his crucifixion and death? Is there help for us so that we do not have to fear, but can believe and have a good life and eternal life? Yes, there is help! Great help. Jesus himself says it to Thomas and the rest of us: "*Blessed are those who believe without seeing!*" - And we think: Yes, that is easy enough to say. But how can we believe without seeing?

But then the apostle John says to us, "*Jesus also did many other signs that his disciples saw; They are not written about in this book. But these things are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that when you believe, you may have life in his name.* He who knew Jesus better than we do, and who was with Jesus on the night Jesus came to them, says that the Gospel book can really give us faith.

God's Word can move us to see with our hearts. We call it in Danish "indse = see inwardly". It is looking inside ourselves and seeing inside in the Gospel. Seeing our own need and seeing Jesus, what he did for us.

It can be so hard to realize when we have done something wrong, betrayed, lied, cheated, and been selfish. It is perhaps even more difficult to realize when we have made ourselves our own master and idol. The 10 commandments help us to realize, realize and fall on our knees, as Thomas did. And then we have something to use Jesus for. For we hear that he died in our place and bore our guilt. And that's exactly what he did. Faith is such a conviction that we realize and see Jesus in the words of the Book, i.e. in the Gospel. Then it is true for us: "Blessed are those who realize their guilt and believe in Jesus, who died for them." It comforts your heart and takes the anxiety away from you and gives you hope.

4. The example in David's Prayer, Psalm 30

Look at the worship folder in the verse that we heard from Psalm 30: ... *Lord, in your mercy you made my mountain a fortress; But you hid your face, and I was seized with horror. To you, Lord, I cried out, I begged the Lord for mercy. ... You took off my mourning garb and clothed me in joy. Therefore I will sing praises to*

jeg lovsynge dig uden ophør; Herre min Gud, for evigt vil jeg takke dig.

Sådan fortæller kong David. Han havde samme tro, som vi har fået. Hans tro gjorde ham stærk som et bjerg og en fæstning. Det gik bare så godt. Og sådan har vi det også somme tider. Det er dejligt.

Men med ét mærker du måske det, som David også fortæller om: *men du skjulte dit ansigt, og jeg blev grebet af rædsel.* Sådan havde disciplene det, da de gemte sig bag lukkede døre. Hvor var Gud? Hvor er Gud? Har du skjult dig, Gud? Ja, et øjeblik. Men kun et øjeblik. Nemlig for at jeg skal huske på, at jeg behøver ham! Og da råber jeg til ham om hjælp.

Disciplene var fortvivlede i 3 dage, mens Jesus var i graven. Rædsel og frygt kan også ramme os, som er døbt og tror på Jesus. Men David siger: *"Du tog min sørgedragt af mig og klædte mig i glæde."* Det gjorde Jesus for disciplene påskedags aften. Og det gør han også for alle os, som er døbt og hører Guds ord. Ordet i Guds Bog giver os virkelig troen og troens overbevisning igen og igen.

5. Glæden diskuterer ikke

Til sidst kan vi overveje, hvad de 10 apostle mon sagde til Thomas, siden han kom tilbage til dem 8 dage efter? Thomas var jo meget skarp i sin afvisning, da de fortalte ham, at Jesus levede. Og hvad får en tvivlende kristen til at komme i kirke på søndag?

Der nævnes kun, at de sagde: *"Vi har set Herren!"* Og da Thomas argumenterede mod dem, hører vi ikke, hvad de svarede. Jeg tror, at det er fordi, der kun er ét eneste svar: nemlig, hvad der skete med disciplene, da de så Herren. Deres GLÆDE.

Disciplene blev glade, da de så Herren. Den glæde mødte de Thomas med helt uden diskussion. Troens glæde udretter mere end diskussioner og vrede ord.

Når Herren tager sørgedragten af os og giver os glæden på som en klædedragt og deler troens glæde med skeptikeren og tvivleren, kommer han måske på søndag og hører Ordet. Og når det er os selv, der er som Thomas, da er det godt, at vi også kommer og møder troende kristnes glæde og hører Evangeliet. Og da ender det med, at vi siger som Thomas: *"Jesus! Min Herre og min Gud!"* Amen.

you without ceasing; Lord my God, forever I will thank you.

This is what King David says. He had the same faith that we have received. His faith made him strong as a mountain and a fortress. It just went so well. And that's how we feel sometimes. It's nice.

But suddenly you may notice what David also tells you about: *but you hid your face, and I was seized with horror.* This is how the disciples felt when they hid behind closed doors. Where was God? Where is God? Have you been hiding, O God? Yes, for a moment. But only for a moment. Namely, so that I grasp that I need him! And then I shout to him for help.

The disciples were in despair for 3 days while Jesus was in the tomb. Fear and terror can also affect us who have been baptized and believe in Jesus. But David says: *"You took off my mourning garment and clothed me with joy."* Jesus did this for the disciples on Easter Sunday. And He does the same for all of us who are baptized and hear God's Word. The Word in the Book of God really gives us faith and the conviction of faith again and again.

5. Joy does not need to argue

Finally, consider what did the 10 apostles might have said to Thomas since he came back to them 8 days later? Thomas was very sharp in his rejection when they told him that Jesus was alive. How did they argue? And what makes a doubting Christian come to church on Sunday?

The Gospel only mentions that they said, *"We have seen the Lord!"* And when Thomas argued against them, we don't hear what they answered. I think it's because there's only one answer: namely, what happened to the disciples when they saw the Lord. Their JOY. *The disciples were joyful when they saw the Lord.* They met Thomas with that joy, and we are told of no extra arguments. The joy of faith accomplishes more than arguments and any angry words.

When the Lord takes off our mourning garb and puts on the joy of a garment, then the skeptic and doubter may come on Sunday and hear the Word. And when we are like Thomas, then it is good that we also come and meet the joy of believing Christians and hear the Gospel. And then we end up saying like Thomas: *"Jesus! My Lord and my God!"* Amen.

