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**He’s Back By Popular Demand**



(John 20:19-23 KJV)

*19Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were [a]assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 20When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.21So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” 22And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”*

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n history past Joe Louis, arguably the best boxer of all time, had a immaculate record of 27–0 going into his fight with the German Max Schmeling. This was in 1936, when Nazism was at its height, and Germany was the picture of evil. So, the fight between the American and the German took place at a sold-out Yankee Stadium.

While on the edge of their seats with nails biting anxiousness—everyone expected Louis to win. But he didn’t. Twelve rounds into a fifteen-round bout, Schmeling knocked Louis flat out to the mat like Deebo knocked that boy out on Friday and took his bicycle! Louis remained there— knocked out cold, “Debo’d!” The hero had fallen. The knockout not only rendered a blow to the plight of African-Americans at that time but also to our entire nation as a whole. This was not a fight just between two men. It had been a battle between democracy and fascism­—right and wrong—good versus evil.

Sadly it appeared that evil had won. It was reported that, throughout the country, people cried when they heard the news of Joe Louis’ defeat. All across the country that night when the news circulated that Joe was knocked out, people cried. However two years later, a second fight was scheduled between Louis and Schmeling. The location was the same: a sold-out Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. But this time, the fight didn’t even make it out of the first round because Louis came out swinging. In just under a minute, Schmeling went down for the third and final time. Louis had won the match with a technical knockout.

When all was said and done, Louis had thrown forty-one punches to Schmeling’s two. In this rematch, the one who was considered the enemy—the one who had once been hailed as the victor—discovered he had indeed lost. Schmeling later wrote, “The whole area was filled with celebration, noise, and saxophones, continuously punctuated by the calling of Joe Louis’ name.” Joe Louis was now, “Back By Popular Demand!”

One day there will be another parade filled with celebration, noise and trumpets. But we will be calling another name, and it will all be because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Scripture says, *“At the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*” (Philippians 2:10-11). On the Sunday, after His crucifixion and death, Jesus Christ did what no other has ever done. He had risen from the grave and now, “He’s Back By Popular Demand!”

Let me hurriedly admit that we serve a living Savior. He overcame and conquered death. Now he lives forevermore making intercessions for humanity. This living Savior gives us joy and peace which the world cannot take away. Here he is appearing before the disciples, “He’s Back By Popular Demand!” The disciples have to be proven that it is indeed the Resurrected Savior by witnessing the marks demonstrated by our Redeemer! So let’s look closely at the three marks left by the Savior.

1. **Mark Of Peace:**

(John 20:19 KJV)

*19Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were [a]assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”*

The text gives declaration that Jesus came and stood among the disciples.” The point here is that he came right into the middle of their meeting. He did not come to the edge and call out through the wall and deal with them as a distant deity. He wasn’t playing a game of —who hides and go seek. He wasn’t trying to toy and traumatize their faith. He wanted them to witness him and know him and believe in him and love him.