

¹⁹When it was evening **on that day**, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When 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.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A **week later** his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

- 1. If you were one of the disciples – what would have been your response to seeing Jesus crucified? The disciples were still meeting in a locked room with each other Sunday night -- why?**
- 2. If you were there for Jesus’ first appearance what would have been your reaction to Jesus? If you weren’t – but were there like Thomas a week later – what would have been your reaction?**
- 3. Why do you think Jesus showed the disciples/Thomas – his hands and his side? Would you need to see in order to believe?**
- 4. What does it tell you about Jesus that even though he wasn’t with Thomas – knew Thomas’ words of doubt?**
- 5. Why do we associate Thomas primarily as the doubter? What else do we know about him?**
- 6. John writes in v. 30-31 of other signs and the purpose of his writing – if you could choose one of Jesus’ signs or looking back at John’s gospel – experience one of Jesus’ miracles which one would it be? Why?**

1. Scared? Three years of your life walking with Jesus and now it was all over? As His disciple – would you go back to your old occupation? Fisherman, Tax Collector etc... The disciples still are worried – meeting behind locked doors.
2. Fear at first and then rejoicing verses not witnessing and continuing to doubt even though brothers and sisters tell you they had seen the risen Christ.
3. Proof – he was who he said he was? Jesus not as a ghostly apparition?
4. Jesus knows our inmost thoughts – spoken and unspoken as we share in our confession.
5. John 11:16 – courageous Thomas. John 14:5 – confused Thomas not knowing the way.
6. Walking on water, loaves and fishes, road to Emmaus, multiple healings, exorcisms, water into wine?

Misc for reflection

John's gospel focuses on moving from darkness into the light – from not being able to see – to believing. While a form of the word 'see' is used more than 20 times in the gospel – it implies more than just what one can see with the eyes – it can be a deeper sense of seeing with one's soul. Some get it – some don't – if you have time work your way through John's gospel this week and look to see how many times John has this play between light and dark and seeing and not seeing. Seeing is believing and rejoicing!!!

Take a look at the other gospels and the post resurrection appearances – fear is a common response to the unexpected – how does God approach us in our fear? We fearfully lock our doors – note that locked doors cannot keep out God's grace!!!

Seeing and believing are not the only themes in these stories – 'blessed are those who have not seen and yet come to believe' (20:29).

**Who in your faith journey have been witnesses to you and helped in your belief?
During this time – why not write them a note and thank them!**