

John 20:24-31

24 Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25a So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord."

24,25a Now the disciples get to see in Thomas how they acted toward Mary and Cleopas. It is not unusual for God to turn the tables on us to show us what we are like to Him. I believe it was Oswald Chambers who said that God brings people into our lives whose actions toward us reveal what we are like to God. What we hate in them is what we subconsciously hate about our own hearts. Just as Mary and Cleopas had tried to convince the doubting disciples, so the disciples now try to convince Thomas...

25b But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

25b Jesus came again with the same greeting. More than just the custom, I believe Jesus is really trying to drive home the point that we should have peace because of the resurrection.

26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

26 This is another Sunday for the Jewish way of counting the days is to include the day they count from. Sunday to Sunday is then eight days.

How did Jesus know what Thomas had said? Well, Jesus has reclaimed what He set aside to be a man. He knows everything. He knows our doubts and He can meet us in unique ways and convince us that He has conquered death. That should give us peace.

27 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."

27 **When I have stubbornly doubted?** John 20:27). Have I been doubting something about Jesus—an experience to which others testify but which I have not had? The other disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus, but Thomas doubted—"Except I shall see..., I will not believe." Thomas needed the personal touch of Jesus. When His touches come, or how they come, we do not know; but when they do come they are indescribably precious. "My Lord and my God!" O.C. -My Utmost for His Highest.

27b What a command, "Do not disbelieve, but believe!" I believe every life hears this command in their heart at some time. Perhaps for someone here it is a word to you this evening. Once Thomas was convinced of resurrection, Thomas took it step further and believed that Jesus is God. This is the first straightforward declaration by a disciple that Jesus is God. John declared the same in the prologue to this Gospel when he wrote that *the word was with God and the word was God.* (John 1:1)

28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

28 -Psalm 35:23,24 Jesus awoke from death and vindicated us. He is our Lord and our God.

²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

29 As much as we would like to think so, we are no worse off for living in this age when we cannot see the physical presence of Jesus. Jesus says we receive a greater blessing (1 Peter 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:7). We have the infilling of the Holy Spirit to help us. Faith pleases God. God will meet us in just as real a way to convince us, but usually in a non-visible way. God wants us to have a greater heavenly reward, so He stretches our faith.

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

30 We set out studying this Gospel showing you that John intentionally told us what the other Gospel writers left out. But in planning the book, he realized he could only hit the highlights. I am sorry, but we will have to wait for heaven for the unedited version. We do know that what we need to know was faithfully recorded. We know because we know the love and faithfulness of God would see that it was so.

³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

31 John intentionally selected the stories in his gospel that would bring you to belief. He did not just set out to tell the story as the other Gospel writers did. He set out to tell of the stories that would help you believe and that by believing you would have life in Jesus' name. Do you believe? Are you experiencing resurrection life in the authority of Jesus, the Creator of all things?

Maybe this evening you are here but you have never believed, never met the risen Lord Jesus. You can have that peace today (Matthew 11:28-30). Maybe you are a Christian, but you have been neglecting the power of resurrection life and are still a slave to your sinful nature. This morning you can come to the One whose scars remain to give you peace and know His resurrection life is at work in you.

While many scholars downplay the validity of John because it tells stories not in the synoptic gospels, and because it so clearly demonstrates that Jesus is God.

Being the last gospel writer, he had time to consider collecting the stories that weren't in the other gospels. He was the youngest disciple and always included in Jesus' inner circle. His Gospel declares Satan as a liar and deceiver. It strains credulity then that he would make up stories that did not happen or lie about what Jesus said. Remember that Jesus carefully chose His disciples after a night of prayer. He knew they would be the ones to convey the account of His life and His message. One more chapter! If you missed any you can read my notes on www.bible-sermons.org