

## Appearance to the Disciples – Thomas Present John 20:26-31

### Appearances of Jesus after the Resurrection:

1. Mary at the tomb – John 20:11-18
2. Woman leaving the tomb – Matt. 28:9-10
3. Two followers on the road to Emmaus – Luke 24:13-32
4. Peter – Luke 24:34
5. 10 of the 11 disciples – no Thomas – John 20:19-25
6. 11 disciples – Thomas (8 days later) John 20:26-31
7. 7 disciples at the shore of Galilee – John 21:1-25
8. 500+ disciples and followers in Galilee – I Cor. 15:6
9. James the brother of Jesus – I Cor. 15:7
10. 11 disciples at the ascension – Acts 1:3-11

Jesus will also appear to Paul on the road to Damascus. Paul will mention this opportunity to see Jesus in I Cor. 15:8.

The disciples never really believed in a physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus. It was not until He stood before them, showed them His hands, feet, and side, and took food and ate did they believe. Thomas will be no better. He vowed unbelief until he too would see and handle Jesus. Jesus obliged.

### I. Jesus Came to Them Again

“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 (Gk - “unbelieving”), but believing.” John 20:26-27

“and after eight days again his disciples were within,” –

Same: 1. It was Sunday 2. Doors locked 3. Disciples together 4. Jesus stood in the middle  
5. Same greeting of peace 6. Invitation to touch his wounds 7. Dealt with unbelief in Jesus’ resurrection though they had been told by others 8. All came to believe in the resurrection

Different: 1. Thomas was there – Give him credit, Thomas did not reject Jesus, or his fellow disciples. He was there the next Sunday! 2. No mention of fear – Was the threat of the Religious Leadership gone? No, I don’t think so, just their fear! Jesus was risen! 3. Dealt with one individual

“Then saith he to Thomas,” – Jesus went right to the **greatest need** in the room, Thomas! He was the unbeliever! Thomas hdeclared what would convince him--see Christ’s hands, **put** his finger into the nail holes, and **thrust** his fist into Jesus’ side! And that is exactly what Jesus invited Thomas to do!

“be not faithless, but believing.” – A better translation would be, “Stop being unbelieving, instead become a believer!” Jesus answers Thomas’ very public statements of “see”, “put” and “thrust” almost word for word. Jesus was willing to have Thomas handle Him in such a graphic way, for the purpose of seeing Thomas believe!

## II. Thomas’ Great Confession and Jesus’ Blessing

**“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.” John 20:28-29**

“My Lord and my God” – This statement is the climax of the book of John. The Gospel of John was written to bring the reader to belief that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. (John 20:31) John used the words of Thomas as **the desired outcome** as one believes in the evidences of Christ’s life, death and resurrection!

This is the highest of testimonies anyone can give to Christ. “Christ is MY Lord and He is My God!” Thomas saw the risen Jesus as His Lord (Master) and as Deity (sovereign One)! We must all see Christ that way! This should be our confession!

“because thou hast seen me, though hast believed:” – Seeing was enough! He didn’t have to “put” and “thrust”! There is no indication that Thomas needed to touch Jesus! The doubts and misgivings concerning Christ completely fell away by the sight of his Lord and God! Note! The other disciples were not convinced until they saw Jesus eat! Thomas only needed to see Jesus!!

“blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” – Catch this! Jesus is speaking of us, believers of the church age who have believed on the person and work of Christ through faith, not having seen Him! But this phrase doesn’t just **look** forward to us, but also those that had come before, the Old Testament saints! I Peter 1:8-12; 2 Cor. 5:7 Someone has called this an additional “Beatitude” like those of Matthew 5 in the Sermon on the Mount. Those of us who have had faith in Christ without the advantage of sight have a special blessing put upon us from God! Thomas and the rest of the disciples missed out on this miserably! This believing without seeing is called “faith” in Hebrews 11:1!

**III. John’s Conclusion to his Gospel** John MacArthur said about this passage, “These verses constitute the goal and purpose for which John wrote the gospel.” (pg. 482)

John’s Literary Divisions:

Prologue – (introductory to a literary piece) - John 1:1-18

Preexistence of Christ; John the Baptist; Why Christ came

Bulk of the work – evidence to the person and work of Christ; desired outcome is to see readers come to belief in Jesus as Messiah and the Son of God – John 1:19 – John 20

Epilogue – (section at the end of a literary work that concludes or comments on what has happened) – John 21

Peter – how he was brought back to fellowship and ministry; a current rumor within the churches is answered

**“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written (Gk - described) 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.” John 20:30-31**

“And many other signs truly did Jesus” – God directed John to write only what was needed to bring man to belief. It was not a biography or a history for the curious. It was not a fill in for the other Gospels written years before. He did not need to describe every miracle. (John 21:25) John had a specific purpose.

“But these” – Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, these events were selected to bring someone to the understanding that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God---deity, and when believing that they might have everlasting and abundant life! Life was used 36 times in the book of John---abundant and everlasting!

The resurrection was the climax to the signs authenticating Jesus as Messiah, the Son of God! It seems here that John concludes his gospel record.

John’s Purpose for Writing his Gospel: We have all heard of the small “Gospels of John” that have been printed for the purpose to give away to others. The objective is to see people come to a full understanding of the work of Christ! In reality, the whole Bible, the Word of God, is what can bring one to salvation. We are not converted to “the way, the truth, and the life” by sight! But by the Word of God! Rom. 10:17; I John 5:9-13

- believe that Jesus is the Messiah – John’s Prologue – John 1:17  
Andrew’s words to Peter about Jesus – John 1:40-41  
Peter’s Confession for himself and disciples – John 6:69  
Martha’s, Lazarus’ sister, confession – John 11:27
- believe that Jesus is the Son of God – John’s Prologue – John 1:1, 18  
Nathanael’s confession to Jesus – John 1:49  
Jesus with Nicodemus – John 3:18  
Samaritan men recognize Jesus as the Christ – John 4:42  
Jesus speaking to Religious Leaders – John 10:30
- life in Christ – The question of perish or everlasting life – Nicodemus - John 3:15-16  
John the Baptist concerning Jesus - John 3:36;  
Jesus’ own words to the Religious Leaders – John 5:24; 6:37, 40, 47  
Jesus teaching on the Good Shepherd – John 10:10  
Rising of Lazarus – Jesus speaking with Mary John 11:25-26

### III. Believer's Application:

1. According to Jesus, what was Thomas' main problem? How did Jesus help Thomas? When we have the same issue as Thomas, how does Christ help us conquer it?

- Thomas did not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. He had many close friends that could testify of it, but Thomas insisted in not only seeing Jesus but dramatically touching Him! He could not believe that Jesus was rise from the dead! Thomas' problem was **faithless unbelief!**
- Jesus obliged Thomas' wishes. Immediately when coming to the disciples the second time, Jesus invited Thomas to see, put and thrust into His wounds.
- When we live in faithless unbelief, we are ignoring the truths of God that lay very close to us, that of the Word of God! Our Bible may be on a desk, bedside table, or bookshelf, but we are ignoring its proofs of God's guidance, love, protection, provision, goodness, the list can go on and on! Everything our faith needs is found in the pages of Scripture! Ps. 119:105 Our faithless unbelief is conquered through the Bible!

2. Because Thomas was not with his fellow disciples, he missed out on the first appearance of Christ. We can also miss out on spiritual blessings when we are not with fellow believers. Good reminder!

Have you ever missed a church service only to have to listen to others tell of the wonderful blessings of the day! That has happened to me! Perhaps I missed a baptism, a wonderful testimony, a special speaker, a great message, a traveling musical group; whatever it was I didn't get in on it, my church family was blessed and I missed out! This is what happened to Thomas. All the disciples were together, and he was absent. He might have had a legitimate reason to have been away, but whatever the reason the disciples were blessed and Thomas missed out!

**We must be serious about gathering as believers.** God commands it. Church family, times of gathering, hearing the Bible preached, Bible study gatherings is not a suggestion, it is a command for this age! Hebrews 10:23-25 We are to come together---for encouragement, to encourage others, "provoke" – Gk "stir up" unto love and good works. Don't miss this! "and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." What day? Jesus' coming again! As we live **in these last days**, let's be faithful to our church gatherings and family. There is a reason we do this---encourage and be encouraged to love and good works!

Let's not miss out like Thomas did!