



John 20:24-31, Lesson #56

By Gerald Cumby

“We have seen the Lord” should be a message in the heart of every Christian.

Physical healing is not necessary for our joy in the Lord...We should rejoice every time we see a baby born, a soul is born into the Kingdom of God (The New Birth), and when we see countless millions raising their hands in worship of the King of the Jews and the Gentiles.

All of us fall into one of the two categories (Jew or Gentile). Jesus rejoices with the angels every time a soul comes crossing the threshold of this life into the glorious presence of the Lord God. This life is a short stay while Eternity is an exceptionally long time (no end; just bliss and joy forever)!

Last week we witnessed in the Word where Jesus was resurrected from the grave...and was seen in His spiritual state by Mary, the disciples, the Women who followed Jesus during His ministry here on earth, and many other followers. Over a period of just a few days, Jesus was brutally murdered, buried, and resurrected through the transformational power of God Almighty.

Now...we see some other miracles happening. New life is placed within the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Holy Spirit was given to the disciples and other followers of Jesus to enhance the miraculous undertakings that took place then and is still happening today. Lives are changed by the quickening of the Spirit within man. Choices must be made to accept or reject the miracle of Jesus's offer of salvation through the blood of Jesus. No more blood sacrifices are ever needed for our salvation. It was completed once and for all.

Some people have to be shook to the core to believe. Some have to be challenged to believe. Some have to be crushed to believe.

Isn't it ironic that all will believe in the end? "Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess...even those destined for hell."

John 20:24-27, Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So, he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

Note: We are not told why Thomas was not with them and Thomas was not criticized for his absence.

- *However, when we are absent for some spectacular event (like a baptism of family member or friend), we still miss out on the blessing.*
- *There was a blessing for those present that Thomas did not receive.*
- *Thomas is often known as Doubting Thomas, a title that is a little strong; remember, all of the disciples ran from the truth on that day.*
- *Thomas refused to believe...making the statement of doubt where others kept their thoughts to themselves.*
- *Thomas refused to believe the testimony of many reliable witnesses who had witnessed the miracles of Jesus along with Thomas.*
- *Thomas made an extreme demand for evidence; evidence of not only sight but of touch, and to repeatedly touch the multiple wounds of Jesus.*
- *Thomas steadfastly refused to believe unless these conditions were met (**I will not believe**).*
- *The unbelief of Thomas was strong, but honestly spoken. It was good that he refused to pretend to believe when he did not believe.*

After eight days: This meeting was probably on the following Sunday.

- *Jesus entered the room in the same mysterious and remarkable way (**the doors being shut, and stood in the midst**).*
- *Jesus also gave the same greeting (**Peace to you!**)*
- *The significance here is that **the disciples met on Sunday** (mentioning it two times: it may well have something to do with the church's early practice of meeting together on the evening of the first day of the week.*

- **Jesus granted Thomas the evidence he demanded.**
 - ✓ *Jesus was not obligated to do this; He could have rightly demanded faith from Thomas on the basis of the reliable evidence from others.*
 - ✓ *In mercy and kindness, Jesus gave Thomas what he asked for.*
 - *Jesus' interaction with Thomas shows that the resurrected Jesus is full of love and graciousness and gentleness to His people.*

There is a clear lesson here:

- *When you want assurance, look to the wounds of Jesus.*
- *They are evidence of His love, of His sacrifice, of His victory, of His resurrection.*
- **Jesus clearly commanded Thomas to stop his unbelief and to start believing.**
- **Jesus wanted to move him from doubt and unbelief to faith.**
 - ✓ *Doubt and unbelief are not desired conditions for the disciple of Jesus.*
 - ✓ *If they are checkpoints along a path leading to faith they should be dealt with with generous love and compassion;*
 - ✓ *But doubt and unbelief should never be thought of as destinations for the disciple.*

John 20:28-31, And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

"My Lord and my God":

- *Thomas made an immediate transition from declared unbelief ([John 20:25](#)) to radical belief.*
- *He addressed Jesus with titles of deity, calling Him **Lord** and **God**.*
- *Thomas was honest enough to say when he didn't believe ([John 20:25](#)), but also honest enough to follow the evidence to its full meaning. Thomas wasn't given to half-unbelief or half-faith.*
- **Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed:** *The question here would be "Did Thomas do as Jesus invited him (to actually touch the wounds of Jesus)?"*

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed":

- *These words of Jesus are another beatitude with a promise of a great blessing to those who believe.*
- *The faith of Thomas becomes the climax of the book. Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus has triumphed over sickness, sin, evil men, death and sorrow. Now with Thomas, Jesus conquered unbelief.*

John 20:30-31, The Summary statement of the Gospel of John.

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

- *John admits that this writing was and is an incomplete collection of all the miracles (signs) Jesus did).*
- *He couldn't possibly record in writing all that Jesus said and did ([John 21:25](#)).*

In this book: *The intended conclusion of the gospel is shown by the use of the words ‘in this book,’ indicating that the writer was now looking back on it as a whole.*

- ***John selected the signs presented in His Gospel to bring readers to faith in Jesus as Messiah and God.***
- *The book is about Jesus. The signs are helpful as they reveal Jesus.*
- *The Gospel – and all of the Bible – was written so that we may believe, not that we might doubt.*
- ***The greatest signs of all were the death and resurrection of Jesus...***

That believing you might have life in His name.

- ***This belief isn't complicated. Our response is as simple as ABC: Accept, Believe, and Commit. It isn't always easy, but it isn't complicated.***
- ***Accept, Believe and Commit...and Repent (Turning life around) = LIFE!***
- <https://enduringword.com>; 1996–present *The Enduring Word Bible Commentary* by David Guzik *Enduring Word Bible Commentary John Chapter 20*