

# Stop doubting and believe!

## Mark 16:1-6

### Resurrection Morning

<sup>1</sup> When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup> Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup> and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" <sup>4</sup> But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here."

## John 20:19-31

### Resurrection Evening

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

### A Week Later

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

## Believing Thomas

### ▼ Thomas doubted and demanded

#### ▶ Thomas was absent

John 20:19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

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- This was a significant (though unannounced) Sunday evening meeting between the resurrected Jesus and his disciples.
- Jesus' agenda included conveyance of (1) **proof**, (2) **peace**, (3) **purpose**, (4) **power**, and (5) **process**.
- But Thomas, who had been called by Jesus as one of the Twelve, was inexcusably absent from the meeting.

#### ▶ Thomas was argumentative

John 20:24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

### ▼ Thomas didn't ditch the disciples

#### ▶ Jesus appeared again to the disciples

John 20:26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

#### ▶ Jesus admonished the doubter

John 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

### ▼ Thomas declared his devotion

#### ▶ Thomas acknowledged the lordship of Jesus

John 20:28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

#### ▶ Thomas accepted the lordship of Jesus

John 20:28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

## Believers today

### ▼ We have a blessing from Jesus

John 20:29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

### ▼ We have a book from John

#### ▶ There is lots of evidence for believing

John 20:30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,

#### ▶ There is life and energy in believing

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, <sup>31</sup> and that by believing you may have life in his name.

### ▼ We have a bunch of joy as believers

1 Peter 1:8 Though you have not seen Jesus, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- ▶ **Let's be bold believers**— and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him
- ▶ **Let's be devoted believers**— Though you have not seen Jesus, you love him;
- ▶ **Let's be joyful believers**— you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,
- ▶ **Let's be receiving believers**— for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.