

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

**49) Come and See...
...Go and Tell!**

'Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained"'

(John 20:19-23)

- ✓ **We are told of 5 appearances of Jesus on the resurrection day. To Mary Magdalene, the other women, the two on the road to Emmaus, Peter and then the ten disciples**
- ✓ **The disciples were in a locked room**
- ✓ **Suddenly Jesus appeared to them in His resurrected body**
- ✓ **The resurrected body is different to our present body** □
- ✓ **Also, there is a connection and a continuation between both, as the scars in hands and side showed. As glorious as will be the change from our present mortal bodies, yet our personal identity will be so preserved that recognition will be certain**

- ✓ **Jesus' first word to His friends, who deserted Him, was 'Peace!' He is amazingly gracious to us, even when we have disappointed Him**
- ✓ **His first word to us when we meet Him face to face with our many failures will be 'Peace!'**
- ✓ **The basis of His peace is His hands and side which had been pierced for them and for us**
- ✓ **These marks are still upon His body, '*And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain*' (Rev.5:6)**

- ✓ **His work on earth was completed; theirs was about to commence**
- ✓ **Luke tells us that others were gathered with the Eleven, including the two on the Emmaus road and the women. Jesus sends every believer into the world on mission, some as preachers but all as witnesses**
- ✓ **Jesus needs the Church to take His message to the world (Eph.1:23). And the Church needs Christ, because otherwise it is powerless**
- ✓ **As the Father sent Him, and He fulfilled that commission, so now He sends them. As He was with them, so He is with us**

✓ **He imparts the Holy Spirit (Person) to them.**
The word is an aorist imperative, i.e. it refers to the present and cannot refer to the future. It is the new birth that was taking place here

✓ *'If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'. Literally, 'those whose sins you forgive are already forgiven, and those whose sins you do not forgive have not been forgiven'*

✓ **Only God can forgive sins (Mk.2:7). He does this through the gospel. Our role is one of declaring to those who believe that their sins are forgiven; and to those who reject Christ, that they are still in their sins**

✓ **All who preach the gospel are in effect saying, 'If you receive the gospel you are forgiven, if you reject it you are not forgiven. If you tell me you have believed on Jesus, I can tell you your sins have been forgiven'. 'Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses' (Acts 13:38-39)**

'Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins' (John 8:24)

✓ **To some we are a savour of life unto life; and to others a savour of death unto death**

'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." 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"'

(John 20:24-29)

✓ **Thomas was absent when Jesus first appeared to the disciples. He was no more a doubter than the others. Remember, they didn't believe until they had seen Jesus. In fact, Thomas believed Jesus' prior words concerning His death when the others didn't. 'Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him"' (Jn.11:16)**

✓ **Thomas is to be commended for expressing his doubts, rather than pretending. E.g. 'Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"' (Jn 14:5)**

✓ **The problem with Thomas' unbelief is that he did not believe the eyewitness account of the others**

- ✓ **After 8 days Jesus appeared to the disciples with Thomas present**
- ✓ **Thomas then believed Jesus had risen, and also affirmed His belief in the deity of Christ and worshipped Him. Jesus received this**
- ✓ **This would be wrong if He wasn't God**
- ✓ **Jesus pronounced us, who have not literally seen Him, as blessed for believing without seeing, i.e. on the testimony of the apostles**
- ✓ **Thomas' confession of faith is the last in the gospels and marks the climax and the purpose of the book, because it is a faith in the Son of God who has triumphed over sin and death**

'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 20:30-31)

***This is a conclusion and summary of the purpose of the book**

***Chapter 21 is more like an epilogue**

***The signs recorded were designed to produce faith in the readers. The signs all involve individuals and show how the power of God was applied to their needs**

***The gospel itself was written to reveal Christ who is the Messiah and the Son of God so that we may put our faith in Him and receive eternal life**