

altered

Part Four: *doubtful to dedicated!* March 24, 2024

Jesus was crucified on Friday afternoon, laid in the tomb on the Sabbath, and rose on Sunday—the first day of the week. On Easter morning, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and then to other women who had faithfully followed Him (John 20:11-18; Luke 24:10). Then Jesus appeared to Peter sometime late morning or early afternoon (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5), and then Christ appeared to two men from Emmaus in the afternoon. *Then...*

- **On Sunday evening, Jesus appeared to His disciples.** **John 20:19-23**

What did Jesus give His disciples on Easter Sunday?

- 1st – Jesus gave the disciples peace and joy.
- 2nd – Jesus gave the disciples a recommission.
- 3rd – Jesus gave the disciples the Holy Spirit.
- 4th – Jesus gave the disciples the message of forgiveness.

- **Thomas was not present when Jesus appeared to His disciples on Easter.** **John 20:24-25**

The disciples kept telling Thomas Jesus was alive, but Thomas refused to believe Jesus had risen from the dead. Thomas stubbornly declared, “I won’t believe Jesus is alive unless I see the nail wounds in his hands and side and put my fingers into them!” Thomas refused to believe Jesus had risen from the dead unless he saw the risen Lord like the other disciples had.

- **One week later, Jesus appeared to Thomas.** **John 20:26-27**

What did Jesus give to Thomas?

- 1st – Jesus gave Thomas peace.
- 2nd – Jesus gave Thomas the opportunity to touch His wounds.
- 3rd – Jesus gave Thomas an order.

- **Thomas went from a doubtful follower to a dedicated follower.** **John 20:28**

“My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed” (John 20:28, NLT). Thomas’ declaration was a dedication to Christ. He gave complete control of his life to the risen Lord!

- **Jesus rebuked Thomas for his lack of faith.** **John 20:29**

Thomas had spent three years with Jesus. He had heard Jesus teach about His coming death and resurrection and heard the testimony from the other disciples about the risen Lord. This should have been enough for him to believe Jesus had risen from the dead. But it wasn’t. Thomas had to see Jesus to believe He was alive. Jesus told Thomas that God blesses those who believe without seeing Him.

- **God produces faith in your life through His Word (Romans 10:5-17).**

Romans 10:17 says, *“Faith comes from hearing the Good News about Christ.”* When you hear or read about Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, God grows faith in you. This faith can be used to repent of your sins and call out to Jesus for salvation.

Three things you need to do when you have doubts about Jesus:

1. Ask God to remove your unbelief. Mark 9:14-24
2. Read God's Word to increase your faith. Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
3. Remember that faith pleases God. Hebrews 11