

**I. Commissioned - John 20:19-23**

1. "First day of the week" (**verse 19**)
  - disciples
  - Rea -our writer says that there may have been lady disciples there. That is very true... but verse 24 - Thomas not there, clearly "implies" that this was the "twelve" (more technically the eleven)
  - assembled
  - doors shut - for "fear"
  - Jesus in the midst of them
2. His words "peace be unto you"
- Rea -His words are relevant because of their "fear"
3. He shows hands and side (**verse 20**)
- Rea -not His "wrists" but His hands - ??
- dispels their doubts
- they were glad - they recognized Him
4. Repeats His "peace" (**verse 21**)
5. Just as He had been "sent" He sends them
- Rea -so Jesus did not come "on His own" He was "sent" by the Father
- the mission is ongoing, but now it is WE who are the light of the World - Mt. 5:13-16
- true apostles are "sent out" ones
6. Receive you the Holy Ghost (**verse 22**)
- Rea -Old Testament leaders were "breathed on" - Gideon, Samson, others
- this means that they were equipped to be His emissaries
7. **Verse 23** highlights part of their "mission" in the foregoing verses
- "remit" and "retain" - on God can do these things
- we can proclaim forgiveness, in His authority
- Rea 8. One way to understand 23 is that the disciples explain the forgiveness of sins that Jesus offers... - or that they offer these things to those who are willing to receive Jesus
- I think it a mistake to take away from this that the church has the authority to absolve sin. However, we do have the task/ responsibility to "give away" the forgiveness that He has made available
- as we represent Him, we must be careful with the given "authority" to represent Him - we carry a word of forgiveness into the world
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Could you explain why God forgives some things/ some people and does not for others?
2. Forgiveness is not the "easy" thing that we have made it - it cost Jesus His life
3. Do you feel "sent?" Shouldn't we feel that way? What Jesus started, we are continuing

**II. Demands - John 20:24-25**

1. Thomas - Didymus is absent (**verse 24**)
- "one of the twelve" - the chosen group

-Luke 6:13 - the “twelve” are the chosen apostles

Rea 2. So conjecture where he was

3. We have seen the Lord (**verse 25**)

4. Thomas expresses his doubt

Rea -boldly expresses - it is a dangerous thing (by the way) to say to God “unless” you do this or that I will not believe

-the lesson makes a good point... perhaps Thomas had been grieving

Rea -there are many, many people who have difficulty believing, but when they do they are strong “believers”

Rea **Ideas and Questions**

1. What do you say to people who have “Thomas-like” doubt?

2. Ironically, they too did not believe until Jesus showed them his hands and side

3. When doubts are openly and honestly expressed they are “on the table” and can be dealt with. Many people have not come to the point where they genuinely face their doubts. Honest doubt is better than dishonest faith. Just my opinion. Honesty and

faith

are not far from one another.

### **III. Believed - John 20:26-29**

1. After eight days (**verse 26**)

-this time Thomas is with the disciples

-within - the doors being shut (still concerned about their safety)

2. Again...

-Jesus “in the midst”

-Peace be with you

Rea -So, the other disciples did not shut Thomas out, and Jesus did not shut Thomas out

3. Reach out and check me out (**verse 27**)

-prints in hands and spear print in side

Rea -thrust in your “hands” - not wrists

4. Don’t be faithless but believing

Rea -is that a rebuke?

5. Thomas’ response “My Lord and my God” (**verse 28**)

6. The rebuke continues - you have believed having seen blessed are those who believe who have not “seen” (**verse 29**)

Rea -that crowd is the 2023 disciples

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Is there anything in the Bible that you find hard to “believe?”

2. In Scripture people often come to faith by stages... is that okay?

3. Do you believe in the same way today that you did you were first saved? - I hope your faith has grown - into something bigger and better, and deeper

Jere Phillips - Lesson for May 21, 2023