

(19) On the evening of that day, the first day of the week --- the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews --- Jesus came and stood among them 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.

(21) Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending 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 withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

(24) Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe."

(26) Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and My God!"

(29) Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

(30) **Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.**

Think on these things:

- 1) Would it be fair to say that Jesus' first appearance to His disciples resembled more of a ghostly apparition? Why would we think this? How did Jesus dispel the idea that He was a "ghost"?

Yes. Jesus suddenly showed up standing among them within a locked room. Other Gospels highlight their fear and apprehension at His presence. Here, Jesus invites them to examine His body with its wounds.

- 2) What was Jesus' message to them on this first night of His resurrection? Please note that this is where the disciples "changed" from disciples to apostles. Can you explain the difference (v.21)?

Apostles – **His first message to them was, "peace be with you." He followed this up with, "as the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you." Apostles are "sent," and they serve as messengers.**

Disciples? **Disciples are students and followers of a teacher. They are learners, rather than messengers.**

- 3) Verse 22 is an interesting verse. Teachings in John on the Holy Spirit can also be found in 7:39 and 14:16-17, 26. Both of these contribute to our understanding of the Father's gifting "after" Jesus' glorification. Pentecost, Acts 2:1-4, ('pente' meaning 50 [days] after Passover) is seen as the fulfillment. If Jesus stayed on earth for 40 days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3-5), how much longer did His believers have to wait in Jerusalem to be imbued with power from the Holy Spirit?

50 days -- **40 days** = **10 days**
Pentecost follows Passover Jesus stayed on earth. Disciples prayerfully waited

- 4) Which disciple could we refer to as “from Missouri”, the ‘Show Me’ state”? How did Jesus respond to his doubts? What was Jesus’ charge to him --- and to us (v.27)?!

Disciple? **Thomas (unless I see...place my finger...place my hand...I will NEVER believe)**

Jesus’ response? **Jesus invited Thomas to see and touch His wounds on His next appearing.**

Jesus’ charge? **Stop doubting and believe!**

- 5) Do you see yourself in verse 29? Why does Jesus say ‘we’ are blessed today?

Personal responses. However, anyone who believes today --- having never examined Jesus’ physical body after the resurrection --- falls into the category of those “blessed” who have not seen! Faith today must be a matter of the heart, not of sight. We respond by trust in God.

- 6) When you read v.30, what do you understand about the ‘signs’ (miracles) of Jesus recorded in the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John)? What does John say about the miracles he chose to include in his book?

All Gospel miracles (v.30)? **Jesus did many more miracles during His ministry years than we find recorded in the four Gospels.**

John’s recorded miracles (v.31)? **John chose to records signs and miracles that specifically aided in his Gospel’s attempt to bring people to faith. (He was making a ‘case’ to believe in Jesus, versus just relating events of Jesus’ life and ministry on earth.)**

- 7) Are you sure that you have eternal life in Jesus? How can you be sure?

Personal responses. Confidence in salvation must be based on scriptural truths, such as: Jesus is the Son of God, the Anointed One and Christ (Messiah), sent to redeem mankind for God by dying on the cross for the sins of all. The personal application of this truth is that one has repented of, and confessed, his/her sin to God, asked for forgiveness, and asked Jesus to come into his/her life. “S/he must be born again” (John 3:3) --- a work of the Holy Spirit --- and “He that believes has the witness in himself” (1 John 5:10).

People and situations I want to pray for this week: