

Whosoever Will 9-6-26

Good morning. Today we're looking at John chapter 20. We were almost finished with our walk together through John. We have talked about his birth, we've talked about his death, and now we're going to talk about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. All great religious leaders of all times have lived, they have died, and they have been buried. But only Jesus rose from the dead and lives forever. This is basically the third piece of the gospel story : The birth and the death, and now. The resurrection without an empty tomb, there is no redemption for our sins. And both the empty cross and the empty tomb are basically like our receipt for our admission into heaven, telling us that our sin debt has been paid in full. The enemies of the cross have always tried to explain it away. ;, they cannot do it. There is no way that you can explain away the resurrection ;. It is a historical fact, it is a spiritual fact, it is well documented. It has as Jesus said.

Completed, it cannot be undone. Some of the things that the naysayers have tried to come up with to prove that there was no resurrection. Uh, the first one was that the women went to the wrong tomb. They just went to an empty tomb, and that's why they found no one there. But if you read Matthew chapter 27 verse 61 part of the scene at the crucifixion, it mentions that the two Marys that were there at the crucifixion carefully marked. Where Joseph and Nicodemus laid the body of Jesus. They knew exactly which tomb to go back to. Some of the others say Jesus just fainted, and later he revived in the cool tomb, but there were too many witnesses to his death. There were the people that were there at the cross. There was the soldier who pierced his side uh to make sure that he was indeed dead. There was a Roman soldier who confessed that he was the Son of God, indicating that he had already died.

Some say, well, maybe the Jewish leaders stole his body. But if they did, Then why didn't they produce the body to prove that this resurrection thing was a hoax? Some think that his followers, His disciples stole the body to perpetuate the myth that there had been a resurrection. But remember, we've already seen them cowering behind closed doors for the fear of their lives. Only John was present at the crucifixion. They were all so afraid that they were going to die. At the hands of the Roman soldiers, that they certainly were not going to venture out and steal the body. And some say, "Well, in their grief, his followers just hallucinated; they thought they had seen him. " But First Corinthians fifteen six tells us that more than five hundred witnesses saw him at one time. And Paul wrote First Corinthians fifteen about twenty years after the crucifixion. So many of the people that were present.

And saw him on that day were still alive. Twenty years later, when Paul wrote, he had their eyewitness that indeed he was alive. So the appearances that Jesus makes here in chapter twenty kind of wrapped themselves around three different themes : love, hope, and faith three of the great cornerstones of scripture. The first one, of course, is love. The disciples are cowering behind

locked doors. Certain that they've seen Jesus die. And now they in turn are going to die too. They had been fussing and fighting for three years over, which was going to be the greatest in heaven. Jesus had talked to them about this coming kingdom, and they're still convinced that is an earthly physical kingdom, it is a political kingdom. They cannot grasp the fact that is a spiritual kingdom that still even in our day has not come. But Jesus had told them that he would die, but he also told them that three days later.

He would rise again, but frankly, they're too afraid to go back and check. They were too afraid to go to the cross. They're too afraid to go back to the tomb. But in love, The women come back to complete their burial task that they had begun on Friday morning. It is now before daylight on Sunday morning. They obviously are not expecting to find an empty tomb because they come bearing more burial supplies. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea worked very quickly. To get the process done before sundown on the day of the Passover, and so they were coming with more burial supplies. John focuses in his story on the Mary Magdalene part of the story. The parts of the story about the other women and the other visitors to the tomb are told in other gospels. Our part of the story picks up in verse eleven of chapter twenty, but Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping.

So as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, One at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been lying. Peter and John had visited the tomb; they apparently have left. Mary had gone to tell them what the angel told her about Jesus having been raised from the dead. She returns to the grave alone, and apparently in the process of Peter and John leaving, Mary coming. They do not pass each other. They do not see each other. They have realized the resurrection truth, but she has not yet. So she's back at the grave. She looks into the tomb again, but this time she sees two angels guarding the burial site. Do, you remember in our studies in the Old Testament. We talked about the mercy seat, The place where God did business with mankind in the holy of holies in the temple?

And the mercy seat, the cover of it was a lid, and there were two cherubim facing each other, wing tips almost touching, guarding the ark of the covenant with the sacred relics that were in it. It's almost a picture like that here of an angel sitting at each end of the spot where Jesus had been laying. As the two cherubim guarded over the ark of the covenant, they are guarding and burial site of their master. Verse 13 says they, "the two angels said to woman," Why are you weeping? And she said to them, Because they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they put him. And when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. And yet she did not know that it was Jesus. The two angels speak to her and she responds with a question. They ask her a question, why are you weeping? And she responds with a question, what have you done with the body of Jesus?

And the interesting thing about it is, the Bible clearly describes this as two angels, and yet she seems to show no surprise at their presence. She shows no surprise that they are talking with her. But the Bible says that she turned. The idea is that perhaps she is facing the two angels, The entrance to the

tomb is behind her, and the angels are facing the entrance to the tomb. The two angels see Jesus appear at the entrance to the tomb. And in respect to their master, they rise. And then Mary turns to see what it is they have seen. She does not recognize Jesus, of course. It's early morning; she's possibly looking into the sunlight. She has been weeping; her eyes are blinded with tears. And this is also now her risen Lord; He has triumphed over death, hell, and the grave. He is not the bleeding, dying Savior that she saw three days ago.

So perhaps like the men on the road to Emmaus, Her eyes were divinely blinded for a moment that she did not know who Jesus was. Verse fifteen, Jesus speaks to her saying, "Woman, why are you weeping?" Basically the same thing the angels have said to her. "Whom are you seeking?" And thinking that he was the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you put him, and I will take him away." And Jesus said to her Mary. And she turned and said to him in Hebrew, Rabboni, which means teacher. He speaks to her and she still does not recognize him. He asks the question, Whom do you seek? The same thing that he said to the soldiers in the Garden of Gethsemane, the same thing he says to us today: Who do you seek? What are you looking for? What is missing in your life? Who do you need?

As your savior, still not recognizing him, presuming him to be the gardener there in the graveyard. She asks, "Where you have taken him? What did you do with him? He was here and now he is not." And I would guess very tenderly, very compassionately, Very kindly Jesus speaks her name, and it's like all the doubt and all the fear just float away. She instantly recognizes who it is. He simply says: Mary, and it was a very warm and tender name to him. It was his mother's name, So you can imagine how many times he heard his earthly father Joseph speak that same name tenderly kindly to his mother. There was the other Mary, Mary of Bethany, a dear dear family friend. There was Mary the wife of Clopas, and even now as Mary Magdalene is there in the garden.

Mary Clopas is making her way back to the tomb. She was there at the crucifixion, and she is now coming also to work on this burial preparation. John 10:27 says, My sheep hear my voice and know and follow. Mary heard the voice of her master and she knew instantly who it was. Verse 17, And Jesus says to her, Stop clinging to me for I have not yet ascended to the Father but But go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. And Mary Magdalene came and announced to the disciples, I have seen the Lord. And that he said these things to her. So she goes and reports. She's already gone once to report that Jesus is no longer there, that the angels have said that he has risen. Now she goes and reports that she has actually seen him and that he is alive.

Jesus' response to her is interesting. He says, "Do not cling to me." So why do you suppose he's saying basically, "Don't touch me," possibly? Because a week later, eight more days from now, he's going to encourage Thomas to do that very thing: "Put your hand here. You wanted proof? I'm going to give it to you. Feel my wounds." Matthew 28 records that the disciples clung to his feet

when he appeared. Before them, so he's telling them it's okay, but he's telling her it's not okay. Some believe when he tells the disciples that that when he tells Mary that, that he's saying don't cling to me emotionally. I am only here for a little while. Don't get used to having me around. I will linger for a little while, but I am leaving again. So don't learn to rely on my physical presence anymore.

In forty days, I am returning to my father's home. So, He will send the Holy Spirit to them in about fifty days to comfort them, to guide them. They will not be left alone. ;. They will have a companion once. Jesus has physically returned to heaven. There is a theory out there, And a lot of people believe it that between Sunday morning and his appearance on Sunday evening to the men on the road to Emmaus. That Jesus returned to His Father in heaven, that He presented Himself as the spotless Lamb, the sacrifice for all sin of all time. The Father was pleased with His sacrifice. The Father was pleased and accepted this offering, and He now returns to Earth to complete the last part of His mission. This forty days of dwelling on Earth after He was raised from the dead, He says:

Her go and say, "He has a job for us." He says, "Mary, I have a mission for you," and it's another reason for her not to cling to him. She's got something she needs to go do. Go tell my brothers. And as we have read through this chapter, You find numerous times where Jesus refers to his disciples as his friends : " Y ou are indeed my friends." But now there is a whole new relationship. His finished work on the cross has changed their relationship. And now they are his brothers, not just his friends. Going back to this ascension back to heaven to present to God, Some think that after Mary left the graveside that morning to go and tell the disciples, what she had seen and what she had heard, that possibly it happened then. And then later in the day, he is back and already talking to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Luke alone records that there was a private meeting between Jesus and Peter. It is not recorded here in John's Gospel. The men from Emmaus, after they have seen Jesus, they've eaten a meal with Jesus, they've talked about how their hearts burned within them when they saw him. It was indeed the risen Lord. They returned to Jerusalem and announced the good news of what they have seen. So apparently When they returned, someone in the group says, "Well, Peter has also seen him." But it's not recorded in John. But that Peter had a private meeting with Jesus. We're going to see Peter and Jesus having another meeting a little bit later in our study in John. But the men from Emmaus have walked, they have dined with him, And now they are back in Jerusalem reporting, all the things that they have seen.

And then shortly after this appearance, he returns and he meets up with the disciples in the upper room. Luke 24 records that. Actually, if you put all the gospel stories together, there are five appearances by Jesus on this first Easter Sunday. There is of course the appearance to Mary Magdalene there in the garden. He appears to the other women who are coming to the tomb to help with the preparation. There is a reported meeting with Peter. He met with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, And then finally, later in that evening, he meets with ten of the disciples, Thomas and Didymus being

absent that particular night. Well, that brings us to the second part of our story: hope. Verse nineteen. Now when it was evening on that day, still on the first day, still on the resurrection day, On the first day of the week, when the doors were shut, where the disciples were together due to fear of Jews.

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, peace be to you. Jesus rose on the first day of the week. Jesus rose on Sunday, the day of the week that we worship on. The Jews worshipped on the Sabbath, on Saturday. It was the last day of the week. They are celebrating the completion of God's work of creation, and that day of rest that he took when you studied the creation story in Genesis. Nine of the ten commandments are mentioned in the New Testament, But the commandment to observe the Sabbath is never mentioned in the New Testament because God knew there was going to be a new way of worship, and it was going to be on the first day of the week. So, The Jews celebrate on the last day of the week celebrating God's completed work of creation. We Christians worship on the first day of week, and we're celebrating Jesus' completed work of salvation, His death.

And his burial, and now most importantly, his resurrection from the dead on the first day of the week. So, how is Jesus going to convert these ten trembling cowards, fearful for their lives, Into giants of faith that are going to carry on the work that he has for them to do? Well, help. The first thing he did was he appeared to them physically really to encourage them that he was alive, just as he said he would be. That They are seeing him, they can touch him, and that he is real. The place of this appearance is not disclosed. Many believe it's the upper room. That seems to be the place where the disciples gathered after the crucifixion. But again, They've been locked behind closed doors for fear of the Romans and what might happen yet next. They've seen what happened to Jesus, and they think it's going to happen to them. But all of a sudden on this evening, Jesus magically appears in their midst as he's.

Defying the laws of nature, he's defying the law of gravity. He doesn't open a door; he simply is suddenly there in their midst. It is his resurrected body, but it is apparently recognizable. Mary Magdalene has recognized him in the garden. The disciples on the road to Emmaus finally recognized him, And now these ten disciples have the opportunity also to see him and to recognize him and report that they have indeed. Seen them, seen him. He offers them the thing that their troubled hearts need the most at this moment. He offers them peace, the peace of God, peace in the midst of their turmoil, of their worry, of their fear of dying, of how are they going to go forward without his daily presence. And, it's the same thing that he said to them on Thursday evening as they were walking from the place of the Last Supper to the Garden of Gethsemane in.

John chapter 14, he says, "My peace I give to you." And he reminds them again that his peace is now available to them. The Bible emphasizes here that he appeared in their midst. And for us as believers, that's the place he should always be in the very midst of our lives. And right here at the end of his story of his time on earth, we have seen him in the midst of three crosses. On Calvary's hill, We have seen him walk to the disciples on the Sea of Galilee in the midst of the storm. At age twelve, The Bible records in Luke two that he

was teaching in the temple in the midst of all the people that were there. So, Daily in the midst of our lives is the place that he needs to be. Verse twenty says, "And when he had said this, he showed them both his hands and his side."

And the disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. This was that final piece of proof that it really is Him. They see the marks of Calvary. There can be no doubt that this is indeed their Jesus. His completed work should have brought them peace in their lives, peace with God, inner peace, peace to carry on the tasks. A lot of people believe that Jesus will bear the marks of Calvary in heaven. And actually, Revelation 5:6 says that when John saw Jesus in heaven in his great vision, that it was as a lamb that had been slain, bearing the marks of slaughter. So it is entirely possible that we will see those marks throughout eternity. A reminder to us even in eternity of what Jesus did for us. Verse 21:

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you. Just 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." So he has appeared to them. He has offered them proof of his resurrection. He has offered them his peace. And now he comes and he commissions them. They have worried about what are they going to do when he is gone? And so now he tells them, "This it. This your commissioning." In John 17:18, he said to them that as the Father sent him into the world, now you are going out into the world. And now he is repeating that commission to them. This their official commissioning. And again invokes the Holy Spirit. He is giving them the Holy Spirit in part.

Actually on the day of Pentecost they are going to receive the full spirit. They're going to receive the spirit in full power and in might on that day when Peter preaches that mighty sermon. But they're going to have the Holy Spirit in part, In these days between this roughly 50 days between the resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. So, it's just going to be a little piece of him to reassure them. He is going to be around, they're going to see him again. But, it's not going to be on a daily basis like it has been in the past. So. This partial giving of the Holy Spirit is just an encouragement to them to carry on the work until they get the full Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. And Acts chapter 2 actually reports that full coming of the Holy Spirit. Doctor Luke wrote this, "And when the day of Pentecost had come, They were all together in one place, and suddenly a noise like a violent rushing wind came from heaven."

And it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And tongues that looked like fire appeared to them, distributing themselves, and a tongue rested on each one of them. And, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with different tongues as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak. So this is that mighty permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We as believers today get it at the point of salvation, but the disciples received it on the day of Pentecost. The Bible says here, "they were all together in one place." King James says, " , they were all together in one accord. ;. They were in agreement about going forward for the future." It is a reference back to Acts chapter one. The disciples were gathered together in the upper room with a

larger group of 120 believers, deciding what should they do next. And then later on the day of Pentecost, this same group.

Receives this power and might and is witnessed by all those that had gathered around people from all over the world, saw this mighty coming of the Holy Spirit. And of course, from that were born, many ambassadors that took the message back to the place that they had come from. And this was just all a part of God's greater plan of how his word was going to begin to spread verse. 23 says to the group, if you forgive the sins of any their sins have been forgiven them. If you retain the sins of any. They have been retained. Jesus is not giving them the power here to go out and forgive people's sins. This is not a special gift that He is giving to them. ; only God can forgive sins. But what He is saying to them is, "As you go, as you share the gospel, You can reassure the person that you are speaking to ; those who receive Me as Lord and Savior."

That their sins will be forgiven, I give you that power not only to preach the word but to encourage the receivers. That if they accept Christ, they will live forever with Him in heaven. But He says also that if they refuse it, that refusal is forever also. Everyone is going to live forever ;. It's just a matter of where you are going to spend eternity. Many years ago East Hallsie Baptist Church had a sign Out front on the their board out there. And it said, what is your seating preference for eternity smoking or non? And that's basically what Jesus is saying here that you can assure those that you witness to when they make a decision to accept me as Lord and Savior. It is settled forever. When they refuse me for as a lord and savior, never accept me, that too is forever I am giving you the power to restrain or to give.

Verse nineteen of I am sorry, chapter nineteen of Matthew, Jesus said to Peter that he was giving him the keys, of the kingdom. He said, I am going to give you the authority to bind and to loose things on earth. And again it was nothing special. It was not a magic trick that Peter was going to be able to perform. He's simply saying that I am going to give you great power to preach. And a lot of this was a reference, of course, to the day of Pentecost when Peter preached, but throughout his ministry. He says, "You're going to have great authority. You're going to have great power to preach." And he says, "What, you're going to be preaching is what is permitted on earth and what is permitted in heaven. That if something is permitted on earth and permitted in heaven, it is a good thing. If it is not permitted in heaven, it is a bad thing. " And he says, "This power will come on you in a way you can never imagine." And it did on the day of Pentecost.

Well, that brings us to the last of our three elements. That brings us to faith. Verse twenty four But Thomas, one of the twelve who was called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came on this first Sunday night. Only ten of them are gathered; Thomas is not there. Verse twenty five says And so the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see." In his hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into his side. I will not believe. " Didymus it is a Greek word; it means twin. It is also an Aramaic word that means twin. So I guess you could say his name was Twin Twin. So why

wasn't he present that first evening? They've all been behind locked doors fearing for their lives, but.

For some reason Thomas is not there that night. The Bible really never explains why. Some believe maybe he was just so sad that he could not be around his friends. It was just too much to bear. He needed time alone. Some are saying that he was so fearful, He even hid from them because after all, it's turned out that one of them was a betrayer, Judas. And so what if one of these others turns on them and turns them in to the Roman officials? So for whatever reason Thomas simply was not there that first night. The Bible says here in verse 24, "And they said to him," they were saying to him, and it's an expression that means over and over. They're trying to reassure him, they're trying to encourage him. And remember this may have happened the same day that he was not there. Maybe later that night he came, Jesus has already gone away but.

Over a period of time. They keep trying to say Thomas you should have been here. It really was him. We really have the proof that it was him. Uh one writer said this about Thomas that uh, when you lay out of church, you just never know what you might miss, and that's what Thomas had done. These were gathered together, they were praying. They were fearful. They were somewhat hopeful. They had seen Jesus, they just didn't know what to do and Thomas was not there, and he missed the blessing. So when you lay out of church. Or Bible fellowship, you just never know what you might miss. So Thomas goes through an entire week of fear and doubt until John twenty one, John twenty verse twenty six. Eight days later, his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. And Jesus came the doors having been shut and stood in their midst and said, peace, be to you. And then he said to Thomas place your fingers here and see my hands.

And take your hand and put it into my side, and do not continue in disbelief, but be a believer. And Thomas answered and said to him, My Lord and my God. And Jesus said to him, Because you have seen me and have believed, and have now a question because you have seen me Have you now believed? And blessed are they who do not see and yet believe. So again magically defying all the laws of nature that we hold to Jesus suddenly appears in their midst and goes specifically to Thomas. And as always, of course, Jesus knows all things. He knows what Thomas has been saying to the others about ". I have to have proof." And Jesus offers him this very same proof, having already read Thomas's heart and mind that he needed it. The interesting thing about it is, of course, is the Bible does not indicate that Thomas ever did touch the wounds.

But they've been given a gift of peace, peace with God, peace in the midst of storms. The salvation question is settled. It was a gift that they really badly needed. And notice too that Jesus does not rebuke Thomas for his lack of faith. He simply offers Thomas the evidence that he had asked for and instantly Thomas's heart is transformed. He never seems to touch the wounds But the very presence of Jesus, his comforting words, Convinced him that this was indeed his Lord and Master, and he was indeed alive. And Jesus tells him, he says, "Y ou ' re being blessed now because you have believed, but

you have believed, because you have seen. I have offered you proof that you could physically touch if you had wanted to.” And he said, “That is a blessing for you.” But he says, “What do you think about all the people in the future?”

The ones who are going to be saved later, and he’s talking about between then and now. He’s talking about us today. He’s talking about people that will still be saved in the future. What a blessing. It is that they have believed without these evidences that Thomas has had, without having this physical evidence of what was taking place. Verse thirty So, then many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book. But these have been 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. So, this kind of John’s epilogue ;. It’s almost like he’s closing out the book here. He says that this why I wrote the gospel. So then, therefore, Because of all of this that I have recorded in this book. And so many other things that I did not have room for—so many things—that.

Matthew or Mark or Luke may have written about that. Literally, the world was turned upside down after the death burial and resurrection of Jesus. And he says, and now those who have read this book are going to have that same opportunity uh, and he talks about that. You may have life in his name. Uh, it is abundant life. It is fulfilling life. It is eternal life. It’s all the things that Jesus stood for, but he says, but remember. There is only one way to that life, and it is me. It is through the name of Jesus. And you know, We said earlier that names define people ; that people get a name, and they are remembered by it forever. It defines them. Thomas, of course, is going to forever be remembered as the doubter, But also, we see here in these verses, how Jesus converted this doubting Thomas into a doer of the word of God. So.

If God could turn the world upside down using this group of fearful people that have been locked behind doors, they have fussed, they have bickered, they have doubted. They have been afraid of their very shadows, and yet history records that they literally did turn the world upside down through the course of the rest of the first century. So He can do the same for us. He can reassure us. He can commission us for a specific task. He can entrust us with things He can enable us to do what he commissions and entrusts us to do. That is our legacy of faith. Well, we come today to the America two hundred and fifty, and today it is a place we have talked about people, we’ve talked about places, we have talked about songs, and now we have a place. Its name is the Jefferson Memorial. It was dedicated by Franklin D Roosevelt on April thirteenth nineteen forty three.

And that happened to be the 200th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson’s birth. It has been called by many a shrine of freedom. It was in the midst of the turmoil of World War II, they’re about halfway through the war at this point. The quotes inside were all from Thomas Jefferson, and they echo so many of the things that have made America a great nation. As you know, It has the dome on top and around the dome on in the inside is written. This : “ I have sworn upon the altar. Of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the minds of man. There is a wall panel that also quotes God. It says, “God who gave us liberty, the God who gave us life also gave us liberty.” Can we, The

liberties of a nation be secure when they have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?

Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just and that His justice cannot sleep forever. That God has given us liberties. And then we turn around and deny the God that has given us these very liberties. And He has promised swift and terrible judgment. And so Thomas Jefferson is saying here, "I fear for my country." And of course this was written in the very early 1800s. So it has been written. Many, many years ago, And yet, it is still true today that he fears that God's judgment is still going to fall on America. In Second Chronicle seven fourteen, the writer said, this very familiar : " Y ou could quote it from memory : 'If, my people who are called by my name, humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin.'"

And heal their land. And, what greater message for us today in twenty first century America than just that if we pray and humble as a nation, He will hear and He will heal our land. Let's pray. Father, we thank you again for these encouraging words, both words from Your Word, words from Thomas Jefferson. Lord, We are in an election year now, and it is such a great privilege that we have Lord that we vote wisely, and we vote well. That we elect those people, Lord, That will carry on not only your legacy, but the great legacy of Christianity in America. For it's in your name we pray. Amen.

John Chapter Twenty The resurrection of Christ Take-Aways

How was Jesus raised from the dead?

But if the SPIRIT of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Romans 8:11

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all *time, the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the SPIRIT.

I Peter 3:18

When Jesus offered proof to Thomas in John 20, He only mentioned His
side and hands

Why didn't He show Thomas the nail prints in His feet?
Psalm 22:16 mentions His feet were nailed to the Cross
In Luke 24:39 he shows Thomas His hands and feet, not His side
Just another example of the uniqueness of each of the Gospels

But now faith, hope, *and* love remain, these three; but the greatest of
these is LOVE.

I

Corinthians 13:1

Notice the three aspects of love – hope – faith shown in John Chapter 20
Mary – in LOVE she wanted to care for Jesus' body properly
Disciples – cowering behind locked doors - in desperate need of HOPE
Thomas – would not believe unless he saw proof – he needed FAITH
Today thru eyes of FAITH we have a living HOPE and we LOVE Him all
the more

Its name is the Jefferson Memorial and it was dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on April 13, 1943, on the 200th anniversary of Jefferson's birth. It was called a "shrine to freedom" amidst the turmoil of World War II. In the quote around its interior dome Jefferson said: "I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the minds of man." A wall panel quotes "God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever."

"... if My people who are called by My name humble themselves,
and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I
will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their
land"

II Chronicles 7:14