

Overheard Conversations With Jesus

Ryland Walter | Easter Weekend | March 30-31, 2024
Week 1: Believing Thomas

The resurrection is _____

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:19-31 (NIV)

Six Ways To Build Your Belief

1. Listen to the _____

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"
John 20:25a

2. See how _____ Christ has been with you

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."
John 20:25b

3. Look at His _____

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side."
John 20:27a

4. Drop your _____

"Stop doubting and believe." John 20:27b

5. Renew your _____ of belief

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
John 20:28

6. Receive His _____

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29

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Six Ways To Build Your Belief

1. Listen to the apostles

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"
John 20:25a

2. See how patient Christ has been with you

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."
John 20:25b

3. Look at His wounds

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side."
John 20:27a

4. Drop your conditions

"Stop doubting and believe." John 20:27b

5. Renew your confession of belief

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
John 20:28

6. Receive His blessing

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
John 20:29



BELIEVING THOMAS

Talk-it-Over Notes | March 30-31, 2024

REVIEW IT

The disciple, Thomas, was not in the room with the other disciples and missed Jesus' appearance after the Resurrection. After seeing Jesus crucified on the cross, he couldn't believe the other disciples when they told him they had seen Jesus resurrected. Thankfully, Thomas' story did not end there. A week later, Jesus allowed Thomas to not only see Him, but offered His wounds as physical evidence. Despite his initial disbelief, "Believing Thomas" took the gospel farther, geographically, than any other apostle.

Belief in Jesus transforms lives. It removes our worries, heals our bitterness, and gives us purpose to live for. Even though we did not see His resurrected body, how can we build our belief? 1) Listen to the apostles. 2) See how patient Christ has been with us. 3) Look at Jesus' wounds. 4) Drop our conditions. 5) Renew our confession of belief. 6) Receive Jesus' blessing. The blessing of living a life of promise.

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29 (NIV)

Spend some time in the Word: Read John chapter 20.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What stood out to you about this sermon?
2. What does it mean that Christianity is "stubbornly historical?"
3. Despite our disbelieving and disobeying, Jesus has patiently been there all along. Jesus was the sacrifice we desperately needed, and Jesus offers His wounds to us so that we can see what we were saved from. How is this truth different than a religion based on rules? What have you done with this realization?
4. We can easily find ourselves falling into the trap of setting conditions for our faith. "God, get me through this... and then I'll trust you." Eventually we make that transaction/thing more important than the relationship God offers, for whatever we try to bargain with will not die for us. Why is it important to stay focused on the free gift of Jesus, and not on the next fleeting condition that we may come up with?

ACT ON IT/PRAY ABOUT IT

Confession is when we agree, or declare, our alignment to what God says. When we confess our belief in Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord, our life begins to reflect a change from our old way of living. Pray to God and ask Him to show you how your life expressions need to re-align with His design for you. Then, receive God's blessing — knowing that God forgives you and meets all of your needs. The Holy Spirit will help you in your weakness to be stronger in faith and in your witness.