

## **Doubting Thomas**

John 20:19-31

by Don Falkos

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It was evening. The disciples were together behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there with them. He stretched out his hands and said, "Peace be with you."

The disciples saw the wounds in his hands and side. They realized he was the Lord and were overjoyed.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you. Just as the Father sent me, so I am sending you." He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive someone's sins, they are forgiven. If you don't forgive them, they are not forgiven."

One of the twelve, Thomas, also known as the Twin, wasn't with the others when Jesus came. They were very excited and told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas refused to be 'taken in', "Unless I see the marks of the nails in his hands, put my fingers into them, and put my hand into the wound in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were together again; this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but suddenly Jesus was there saying, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Look at my hands. Put your finger here; put your hand into my side; and believe!"

Thomas cried out, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "You believe because you've seen me. Blessed are those who don't see and yet believe."

Jesus performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which I have not told you about. But the ones I have told you about I've told you so you might believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by trusting Jesus you might have life because of who he is.