

The Gospel of John:

Mission & Belief (*John 20:19-29*)

The Commission (v. 19-23)

- The evening of the day of Jesus' resurrection, the disciples are meeting
 - The doors are locked because they feared the Jewish leadership might have them arrested and killed as well
- Jesus appears in their midst
 - In His resurrected form, Jesus is not bound to the physical constraints of this world anymore, evidenced by His passing through His grave-clothes & the locked door
- “Peace be with you” (v. 19, 21) is more than a greeting; it is a fulfillment of His promise (14:27; 16:33)
 - Peace: Reconciliation & life with God
- He sends them to continue His mission
 - Offering forgiveness is a summary of this mission
- Breathing on them as a symbol of the giving of the Holy Spirit
 - The Spirit's presence & power are essential for us to continue Jesus' mission

The Doubter (v. 24-29)

- Thomas was not present when Jesus first appeared to the disciples
 - Despite hearing their testimony about seeing the resurrected Jesus, he says he won't believe without physical proof
 - He not only wants to see but also touch the wounds
- Another week passes, and the disciples are meeting behind locked doors again
 - Jesus appears, with the same greeting
- He addresses Thomas, offering the proof he claimed to need
 - He tells him to stop doubting and start believing
 - Both doubt & belief are active choices
- Thomas responds with the most explicit declaration of Jesus' identity in the Gospel
 - My Lord: Jesus is the Messiah
 - My God: Jesus is God incarnate
- Jesus responds by affirming Thomas' faith
 - But asserts that those who believe without physical evidence are blessed (1 Pet 1:8-9)

So What?

- Do we need physical evidence to put our faith in Jesus, or is our trust in His finished work?
- Are we relying on the Holy Spirit to continue the mission of Jesus?

Meditation Verse: John 20:29
Next Week: John 20:30-31; 21:24-25