

Seeing Through The Eyes Of Faith!

April 26, 2026

Scripture: John 20:21-29; *The Amplified Bible (AMP)*

Supporting Scriptures: Luke 24:38-39; John 11:6; 14:5

Part 3: “How Will You Respond?”

Context: In our last three messages, we used the Synoptic writers' framework to affirm the resurrection through credible witnesses. We now turn to John's Gospel, which focuses on the deep personal moments when the disciples encounter the risen Christ. In the context of the Upper Room, Jesus' attention is on assuring, commissioning, and restoring the faith of His disciples, especially addressing doubt, thereby highlighting two significant occasions when Jesus suddenly appeared to His disciples in His resurrected body (John 20:19–23). To reassure them that He was not a spirit but the very Lord who had been crucified (see Luke 24:36), Jesus showed them His hands and side (see John 20:20) displaying the sacred wounds bearing the unmistakable marks of His crucifixion. Notably absent from Jesus' first appearance to the disciples is Thomas.

Today, we pick up our story in John 20:21–29. As John recounts these events, consider them with fresh eyes—especially Thomas' response to the disciples and his response when he sees Jesus.

- **Verse 25:** The disciples tell Thomas they have seen the Lord, and Thomas says to them, “Unless **I see** in His hands the print of the nails, and **put my hand** into His side, I will not believe. (Compare with John 20:20; Luke 24:38-39).
- **Verses 26-27:** Eight days later, the eleven are in the Upper Room behind closed doors when Jesus appears in their midst and says, **Peace to you** (see Luke 24:36; John 20:21).
- **Verse 28:** “And Thomas **answered and said to Him, “My Lord and My God.”** One commenter suggests that Thomas's response does not simply acknowledge the reality of the resurrection of Jesus, but expresses the ultimate meaning that Jesus was who He said He was. Hence, the focus is not on Thomas, but on those who have not seen.¹

Beloved, our scars are not the end of our story. Our scars are a testimony of God's ability to restore (see Joel 2:25; Job 42:10). Christ's scars are visible evidence of the power of the resurrection, which is the very heart of the Gospel message (see 1 Corinthians 15).

Content: John 20:21-29 (AMP)

²¹ Then Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you [as My representatives].” ²² And when He said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of anyone they are forgiven [because of their faith]; if you retain *the sins* of anyone, they are retained [and remain unforgiven because of their unbelief].”

A Personal Desire

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve [disciples], who was called Didymus (the twin), was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!” But He said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the marks of the nails, and put my finger into the nail prints, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe.”

An Expression of Faith

²⁶ Eight days later His disciples were again inside *the house*, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors had been barred, and stood among them and said, “Peace to you.” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and put out your hand and place it in My side. Do not be unbelieving, but [stop doubting and] believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, do you now believe? Blessed [happy, spiritually secure, and favored by God] are they who did not see [Me] and yet believed [in Me].”

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¹ George R. Beasley-Murray. *Word Biblical Commentary: John*. (TN: Thoms Nelson, INC, 1999), 386.