

A. John 20:26-31 – Jesus’ second appearance to the disciples, especially for Thomas

1. John 20:26 – *After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “**Peace** be with you.”*
 - a. About a week later, the disciples were **locked** in the house again. They were present together, but this time Thomas was with them.
 - b. We don’t know where Jesus had been during that week, but suddenly, even though the doors were locked, Jesus stood in the middle of His disciples and once again greeted them with, “**Peace** be with you.”
2. John 20:27 – *Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving but believing.”* Jesus singled out Thomas. Thomas was a doubting believer. Though Jesus had not been present when Thomas expressed his **doubts**, He clearly knew Thomas’ words and thoughts.
 - a. Jesus does not give up on believers who **struggle** with their faith. In fact, His nature is to leave the ninety-nine to go after the one who is hurting. Matthew 18:12
 - b. After greeting the disciples, Jesus immediately directed His conversation to Thomas. He invited Thomas to touch His hands and His side. Instead of being impatient with him, Jesus gave Thomas sufficient **evidence** to help his unbelief. Mark 9:24
 - c. Ever since Jesus rose from the dead, the gospel we preach demands faith in Christ’s resurrection. Thomas could never have **testified** about Christ if he had continued doubting the resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19
3. John 20:28 – *Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”* The text does not indicate that Thomas touched the Lord. It seems that upon seeing the Lord, he instantly believed. Thomas voiced that he believed Jesus was both God and **Lord**. Jesus never countered what Thomas said. Jesus did not deny that He was God.
 - a. In the previous verse, Jesus basically told Thomas, “Stop doubting and believe.” We all struggle with doubts sometimes, especially in the face of unexpected **illness** or death. But upon seeing Jesus and hearing His loving words, Thomas immediately believed.
 - b. We often face the same dilemma Thomas faced. Because we do not see the Lord Jesus with our eyes, our faith is easily challenged. However, we are called to simply believe God’s written **word** without first seeing anything. Psalm 138:2b
 - c. Truly we all do one or the other: we either believe or we do not believe. If you find yourself in disbelief, Jesus would simply say to you, “**Trust Me.**” Psalm 56:3-4
4. John 20:29 – *Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed .”* Jesus told Thomas that those who believe based only on the message of God’s Word without physical evidence are **blessed**.
 - a. Jesus was not disappointed that Thomas believed; He was disappointed that Thomas believed only after seeing. Jesus added that people who believe **without** seeing are more greatly blessed than those who must have viewable evidence. Romans 8:24; 2 Corinthians 4:18, 5:7
 - b. Believing without seeing is counterintuitive, but once you do believe God’s word and His promises, you can experience His extraordinary **peace**. Philippians 4:6-7
 - c. Faith is not an irrational, contrary-to-evidence response; it is a rational response based on biblical **truth**. Faith is not an irrational leap into the darkness; it is the reasonable acceptance of the scriptures as reliable evidence. Hebrews 11:1, 13
 - d. Children readily believe without seeing; therefore, we should **teach** them the truth while they are young. Also, for this very reason, it is appalling to cause a child not to believe. Deuteronomy 4:9, Matthew 18:6, Ephesians 6:4
5. John 20:30 – *Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book ...* In light of Thomas’ unbelief, John added an important **commentary**.
 - a. One of the reasons Jesus performed the sign miracles recorded in the Gospel of John was so that people could read and believe. John wanted faith in our Lord Jesus Christ to be substantiated with actual proofs and **facts**. This is one of the major reasons he wrote this book. We cannot go back in time and watch video

footage of what happened.

- b. Because we were not physically present when these things happened, we must believe what is written or else reject it altogether. According to John, we have the actual words and works of Jesus **recorded**. These words have remained intact for two thousand years and are the basis and foundation of our faith today.
 - c. These are credible evidence that allow us to see with our mind's eye and believe. If John would have had an eternity to write, he could have included many more miracles and signs that would likely help us to believe even more readily. But the Holy Spirit had him pen these **specific** events for our solid faith and confidence.
 - d. John could have provided more evidence of Jesus' glory as Messiah, but he chose to arrange his message around the following eight specific signs. Remember that a sign is a special miracle that points to the **glory** of Christ's person and work.
 - 1) #1 – The wedding at Cana: Since wine making is normally a very slow process, this miracle defied **time** because this amazing wine was created instantly. John 2:11 says, “ *This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him .*” John 2:1-11
 - 2) #2 – Healing the official's son: Since the dying child was far away, this was a miracle defied **distance** and the need for Jesus to be present to in order to perform it. John 4:54 says, “ *This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee .*” John 4:46-54
 - 3) #3 – Healing the invalid at the Pool of Bethesda: Since the individual who was healed never asked Jesus for healing or even showed any signs of faith, this miracle defied the common belief that the sick person must **believe** in order to be healed. John 5:1-15
 - 4) #4 – Feeding the multitude: Out of a tiny meal, Jesus made an abundance of food. This was a **creation** miracle. *Therefore, when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”* John 6:1-14
 - 5) #5 – Walking on water: By walking on top of water, Jesus showed He could defy the laws of **nature**, something no other human can do. John 6:15-21
 - 6) #6 – Healing the man born blind: In giving sight to a person born blind, Jesus showed His incredible **power** to do the impossible. John 9:16a says, “ *Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, “This man is not from God...” But others were saying, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?”*” John 9:1-41
 - 7) #7 – The restoration of Lazarus to Life: The resurrection of Lazarus decaying corpse is totally amazing and shows Jesus power over **death**. John 11:47 says, “ *Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, “What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs .*”” John 11:1-44.
 - 8) #8 – The resurrection of Christ, the ultimate sign: John 20:30-31a says, “ *Therefore 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...*” This was a sign done by the Father to prove Jesus is the **Christ**. Matthew 12:29
6. John 20:31 – “... *but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*” John provided these signs as evidence so people would believe in Jesus as Messiah and be **saved**.
- a. Why did the Holy Spirit have John **record** this information? It was specifically so that you, the reader, the student, the listener, might believe two important truths. 2 Peter 1:18-21
 - 1) The first truth is that Jesus is the Christ, or Messiah, the one who was promised long ago, immediately after the fall of man in the garden (Gen.3:15). In the mind of God, He was sacrificed before the world began (1 Pet. 1:19-20). He is the one whom the prophets foretold was coming. This is a primary **reason** this book was written.
 - 2) A second reason John wrote his Gospel was so we would know Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is God become **flesh**. He is the unique man of the universe: Jesus is both God and man at the very same time.
 - b. The desired outcome of knowing these two truths, that Jesus is both Messiah and the Son of God, is that you will come to have **eternal** life by believing in His name.