



Leader

3/31 - John 20:24-29 (Thomas)

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
[Dialogue]
2. Let's read our primary text. What context do we need prior to launching our discussion? What took place in the preceding verses?
One week prior, Jesus had appeared to the disciples, allowing them to see Him, and then gave them a foretaste of the Holy Spirit that would be poured out in days ahead (Acts 2).
3. We know from the previous verses that Jesus entered a "locked room" and also had a body that could be touched/felt. What can we conclude about Jesus' glorified body?
There is debate as to whether Jesus opened the locked door or if He simply passed through the wall, but it is clear that Jesus had a real material body that could be held and touched....he was indeed a walking miracle. We too will receive this glorified body, just as Jesus did.
4. Once Jesus entered the room, He greeted the disciples and then immediately turned His attention to Thomas? What do we learn about Jesus in this moment?
Jesus is very much concerned with what concerns us. He *supernaturally* knew Thomas' need and met that need by "extinguishing" his disbelief and "fanning into flame" what belief he had.
5. Thomas often gets a "bad-rap" because of this moment of doubt revealed in Scripture, but have you ever had a friend that just said what everyone else was thinking (maybe that is you)? Can you find yourself in this story?
[Example - The disciples had the luxury of seeing Jesus prior to Thomas, but Thomas just said what was on His mind. I need to see Jesus for myself!]
6. Have you ever had a moment where you had significant doubt, muttering "I have to see that with my own eyes", only to discover the claim was absolutely true?
[Example - (1) When Apple first released the iPhone, I felt there was absolutely no way they could send a music album over the air at the push of a button. (2) I thought there was no way SpaceX could actually launch a rocket and get that same rocket to return to earth and land on its feet.]

7. Following this miracle, Thomas is stunned. He now wholeheartedly believes. But what does Jesus say, leaving for our instruction? How does this help us today?

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus makes clear that seeing and touching Him is not necessary for belief. Hebrews 11 reminds us, "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

8. Is there anything else you would like to add to the conversation as we close?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]

- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary

- Christ Centered Exposition Commentary Series - John