

“Seeing is Believing!”

A lesson for New Sunday



THEME: Seeing is Believing

SCRIPTURE: John 20:44-29 "But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

LESSON:

On the evening of the first Sunday after Jesus had been crucified, His disciples were together in a locked room. They were afraid that those who had crucified Jesus would also want to put them to death. Suddenly, Jesus appeared there in the locked room with the disciples. It was hard to believe, but they saw Him and Jesus showed them His wounds in His hands and His side, so they knew it was Him.

One of the disciples, whose name was Thomas, was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them. When they told Thomas that they had seen Jesus, he did not believe them. He had seen Him crucified and buried, how could He be alive? Thomas said, "Unless I see the wound in His side and put my finger in the holes where the nails were in His hands, I will not believe it!"

A week later, the disciples were in the locked room again and this time Thomas was with them. Again, Jesus came and stood among the disciples. Jesus, said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas fell on his knees and answered Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

You and I have never seen Jesus with our own eyes. The question is, will we be a doubter, or will we be one of those who Jesus said were blessed because they believe, even though they have not seen?

New Sunday is yet another opportunity for us, the faithful, to have a renewed spirit and once again joyfully proclaim the triumph of the Resurrection. We are asked to put aside any and all doubt, be strengthened in spirit, and boldly profess our faith in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear Heavenly Father, help us to believe in our heart the truths and promises we find in your Holy Word, even though we have not seen them with our eyes. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.