

John 20.19-31

mgvhoffman translation CrossMarks.com

Preface: After Jesus' crucifixion and burial on Friday, *Mary Magdalene had gone to Jesus' tomb early on Sunday morning. Finding the stone removed, she ran and told the disciples. Peter and the beloved disciple came and found the tomb empty with only the grave cloths there, yet, without fully understanding, it says that the beloved disciple "saw and believed."* After they left, *Mary remained outside weeping. She sees two angels in the tomb who ask her why she's weeping. "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him," she says. Turning, she sees someone she thinks is the gardener who also ask her why she's weeping and whom she's seeking. She wants to know where Jesus' body has gone so she can get it. When he says to her, "Mary," she recognizes Jesus and declares, "Rabbouni, my Teacher."* Jesus explains that she is to tell the disciples that he is yet to ascend to the Father. Returning, *Mary tells them, "I have seen the Lord."* As you now listen, what do you see?

Now, when it was evening on that [same] day,
the first day of the week,
and the doors had been locked where the disciples were
because of their fear of the Jewish authorities,
Jesus came and stood in their midst,
and he says to them,
"Peace be with you!"

And after he said this,
he showed them his hands and side.
Then the disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Jesus then said to them again,
"Peace be with you!"
Just as the Father has sent me forth, I also am sending you."

And after he said this,
he breathed into them
and says to them,
"Receive [God's] Holy Spirit."
Should you forgive anyone's sins,
they stand forgiven to them.
Should you retain anyone's sins,
they stand retained.

Now Thomas, one of the twelve (the one called the Twin) was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples kept on telling him,
"We've seen the Lord!"
But he said to them,
"Unless I see in his hand the mark of the nails,
and I stick my finger into the mark of the nails,
and I stick my hand into his side,
I will never believe."

And [on Sunday] eight days later,
again his disciples were inside

and Thomas was with them.

Jesus comes,

even though the doors had been locked,
and stood in their midst and said,

“Peace be with you!”

Then he says to Thomas,

“Bring your finger here and see my hands,
and bring your hand and stick it into my side.

And stop disbelieving!

Rather, start believing!”

Thomas replied and said to him,

“My Lord and my God!”

Jesus says to him,

“Because you’ve seen me, you’ve believed.*

Blessed are the ones who don’t see and yet believe!”

Now Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples
which have not been written in this book.

But these have been written

in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that believing you may be experiencing life in his name.

*Note that this sentence can also be read as a question: Because you’ve seen me, you have believed?