

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**  
**MAY 2, 2022**

We continue to look at the appearances of Jesus after the resurrection. He had appeared to the 10 disciples in the locked room (Thomas was not there.). Eight days later Jesus returns to the same room to meet with all eleven disciples. It is important not to leave Thomas behind.

I think that we might describe Thomas as a pragmatist and a person who believes what he can see with his own eyes. His doubting about the news of Jesus says something about how much he trusts the others. At best, we can say that he thinks that they are delusional.

Imagine the surprise that Thomas experiences when he sees Jesus standing in the room. Read again John 20:26-29. The words of Jesus to the disciples were "Peace be with you." I think that He is saying "My peace I give to you. When I am in your life, you can have peace." There is no recrimination of Thomas; there is only an invitation. Thomas is invited to literally reach out and physically examine the scars that Jesus bears in his body. That isn't necessary for Thomas. All he needs to do is look upon his Lord and he proclaims, "My Lord and my God!"

The scars of Jesus fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah about the promised Messiah. Read again Isaiah 53 which describes the passion of Jesus. Now, his scars remain as a testimony to the suffering that He endured so that grace might be brought to humankind.

Because Thomas believes, unity is restored within the group of disciples. That is important because they will need the support of one another as they begin the mission of Jesus after his ascension. The disciples will need the security that they provide for one another for the time being. It has only been eight days since the resurrection and such news would have been the talk of the city of Jerusalem. The rumor was being spread that the body of Jesus was stolen away, but they would not be able to deny what they saw.

*Lord, You have blessed us with enough faith to believe. Thank You. Amen.*

*Pastor Louise*

