



COURAGEOUS

CHRISTIANS

Courageous Christians: Thomas

Jesus is alive!

Later, on that first Easter Sunday evening, the disciples gathered together for a meal.

'Lock the doors!' said Peter. 'The temple leaders might try and find us. It won't be long before people get to hear about Jesus being alive and they'll accuse us of lying - again!'

'I agree – let's be careful, until we know for sure,' said John, the disciple Jesus loved.

'It's really true, I tell you – I saw him with my own eyes!' Mary was adamant. She was sure it was him. 'I know it was Jesus!' she cried.

Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. At first, the disciples were shocked into silence. Then, as they came to their senses, they began to smile and laugh together. They were overjoyed! Jesus was alive! He had come to them!

Jesus showed them his hands and his feet. They could all see the scars where the nails had been and where the soldier's sword had cut him. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing him. They were chattering and laughing together. Then, Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. Just as I have been sent into the world by God the Father, so I send you." The disciples fell silent, wondering what he meant. Jesus then did a really strange thing. He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas, who had a twin brother, was not with them when Jesus came. So the next day, the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Cleopas added, 'Yes! We saw him too, on the road! We didn't realise it was him at first, but he walked and talked with us and explained everything!'



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Thomas shrugged his shoulders. 'The grief has made you all mad! You're making this all up!'

'It is true, Thomas! I saw him with my own eyes!'

'You're all crazy, all of you!' Thomas stamped his foot in frustration. 'Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe Jesus is alive!' Thomas shoved his hands in his pockets and went to sulk in the corner.

'Leave him alone,' said Cleopas. 'He will have to believe us soon!'

A week later the disciples were eating a meal together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked because they were all still afraid that the Jewish temple leaders would try to hurt them as they had been telling stories about the risen Jesus.

Again, Jesus suddenly came and stood among them and said again, "Peace be with you." The disciples were overjoyed to see him again! He sat down and continued to eat with them, laughing at Peter's jokes.

Then Jesus turned and looked straight at Thomas. "Thomas! I have come to see you! Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and touch my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!"

Thomas fell on his knees before Jesus. 'Jesus,' he said through his tears. "You are my Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, it is so easy to believe I am alive because you have seen my risen body. Many others will believe I am alive even though they haven't seen me like this. You must have faith!"

The Bible tells us that Jesus performed many other miracles, some of which are written down. These stories have been written in order that we can believe that Jesus is the special one God sent, the Son of God, and that through faith and trust in him we can all have a new life.