

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 & John 20:19-31

Singing: 251:1-3 -- 322:3-4 – 240:1, 4-5 – 92:1, 5 – 162:1-2

Jesus' Bringing Easter to Thomas

I. Thomas' problem II. Jesus' ministry

III. Thomas' Confession IV. Jesus' admonishment

I. Thomas' Problem

A. Thomas stayed home from 'church' and missed out Jesus' visit (24)

B. Thomas visited by his brethren was all in vain (vs. 25a)

C. Thomas' proposed cure was his problem (vs. 25b)

D. Are you Thomas' (unnamed) twin today?

II. Jesus' ministry to Thomas

A. Though Thomas' heart wasn't changed, he did join 'church' again (vs. 26)

B. Jesus came to break Thomas' bondage of his unbelief: vs. 26-27

1. Jesus' coming was despite locked doors and a locked heart

2. Jesus' direction indicates seeing Jesus was still not enough (vs. 27)

3. Jesus' words in vs. 29 forbids us to draw wrong conclusions

III. Thomas' Confession

- A. The doubting Thomas becomes the confession and assured Thomas (vs 28)
1. Here Jesus is at work
 2. His confession is short by exceedingly broad
 3. His confession is also very personal: **my Lord and my God**

IV. Jesus' Admonition

- A. Jesus gives Thomas a needed admonishment (vs. 29)
1. Jesus stated the admonishment as a beatitude about believers
 2. Jesus' direction to experience the full Gospel blessing is *childlike faith in His Word*
 - **Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become like little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 18:3)**
 - **We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. (2 Peter 1:19)**
- B. Nothing so scatters the doubts and fears than faith in the *promises of God*

There is much profit and great use in tracing out God's works of grace in the heart yet nothing scatters doubts and fears more than looking at Jesus. This is much more likely, in dependence on Holy Spirit, to bring poor doubting souls out of fear and bondage than all the tracing of the evidences of life of God within; for often in looking for those evidences, the more they look the less they find and thus instead of looking out of themselves to the Lord of life and glory to receive of His fullness grace for grace, they are ever occupied with self-examination; good in its place but which often leads only to self-condemnation. (Hooker)

**Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee:
because he trusteth in thee. (s. 26:3)**