

JOHN 20 vs 19

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¹⁹ **Then the same day at evening, being the first of the week / 3 days and 3 nights** later, John wants us to remember: the new day starts at dusk... when the sun goes down, so still the first day of the resurrection; **the Day of Firstfruits**,

when the doors were shut where the disciples / His mathetes; those supposedly doing the math,

were assembled for fear of the Jewish leaders, then... Jesus came and stood among them / suddenly, in this room where they were hiding... Jesus appears; Jesus is visible;

and said to them, Be at peace / now, when Jesus shows up, they are terrified.

²⁰ **And when He said this, He showed them His hands and His side** / NO, they were not seeing a ghost!

Then the disciples rejoiced, when they saw the LORD / can you imagine? Thinking He is dead... and seeing Him alive!

²¹ **Then Jesus said to them again, Be at peace** / now, why is Jesus having to repeat Himself? You see, their response is plausible. Dead people are supposed to remain dead; at least longer than 3 days and 3 nights. His disciples were starting to figure it out! They weren't just caught up in some emotional experience. Oh! It was emotional; but they were trying to do calculus when they hadn't mastered the basics.

Then the disciples rejoiced, when they saw the LORD / on Day 1 of the Firstfruits.

Then Jesus said to them again, Be at peace: as My Father sent Me, even so I send you.

²² **And when He said this,**

He breathed upon and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit / which simply continues what Jesus spoke the night He was betrayed: the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not; nor knows him; the Spirit of Truth... He will receive from Me and show it to you; whatever you ask the Father, in My Name; ask, and you will receive;

In other words, Jesus did not have bad breath! He said, **the Spirit is with you**... this unseen Guest, sent by God... He will soon be in you to promote God's agenda... to empower for God's purposes; so it is what Jesus says to His church today!



Day 3: Firstfruits

Welcome the Holy Spirit! / Jesus adds.

²³ Whose **sins** you release / whose **hamartia**, wrongdoing; offense, something Jesus knows we all do, prelates and presidents, priests and paupers alike... every day; whose wrongdoings you send away, you forgive, you let go and make a space,

they are released from them;

whose you retain, they are retained / remember Jesus already said: **where 2 or 3 are gathered in My Name... in some matters, you will need to decide what is binding... and what to let go.** This verse has nothing to do with hocus pocus clerics supposedly absolving sin, when we are **already covered by the blood of Jesus Christ**; and our God has already promised **to remember our sins no more**; it has more to do with how we forgive others, and the same way we expect our Father in heaven to forgive us.

²⁴ **But Thomas, one of the Twelve, called The Twin, was not with them when Jesus came** / remember: all these stories are highly compressed. How much time elapsed is impossible to tell.

²⁵ **Therefore, the other disciples said to him, We have seen the LORD.**

But he said to them, Except I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the imprint of the nails, and throw my hand into His side / with hard-ball force and power,

I will not believe / you'll never make me believe... I ain't moving, nope not me! I ain't that stupid! When Jesus came teaching His first word was **metanoia**... **reconsider**; because without a changed mind, there will be no changed heart. The mindset of Thomas can be dangerous, especially if we know without faith we are powerless to please God.

²⁶ **And after eight days again the disciples were inside, and Thomas was with them** / still hiding in fear. Jesus said to meet Him in Galilee; but it appears, some of the disciples were still in Jerusalem; waiting for Thomas. I'm sure impulsive Peter had already traveled the 70 – 80 miles by foot, and agitated, was waiting for them in Galilee. What do you supposed the fisherman was doing? Hmm?!

after eight days...

Then Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in their midst, and said, Be at peace.

²⁷ **Then He said to Thomas, Reach here your finger, pay attention, My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it forcefully into My side: and be not faithless, but believing / be faithing...** which always pleases God our Father.



Day of Salvation: Day of Yeshua Day of Jesus

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²⁸ **And Thomas sizing up the situation** / assessing what took place...

and said to Him, My LORD: and my God / **Thomas was an eye-witness to Jesus**, ultimately to be martyred in Madras India – the part of India that still has the largest number of followers of the Lord.

²⁹ **Jesus said to him, Thomas, because you see Me, you also believed** / you took your first steps on this faith journey with Me:

blessed / marked with God's favor, **are those who have not seen Me, yet believe.**

³⁰ **And many other signs Jesus truly did in the presence of His disciples** / those putting it together: 1 plus 1 plus 1,

which are not written in this book. / what was Jesus doing? All the gospel records agree. Wherever Jesus appeared, they were terrified! And Jesus knew... what all men in the world would think: Dead men should remain dead. But Jesus did not allow that limited, faulty thinking; and for 40 days... appearing; and then not being seen... which does not mean that He is not present. Jesus came and went, in the same body that was crucified... and risen from the dead. And He marched His disciples... up to Galilee; and back! You know, lots of things can be done sleepwalking, but I don't think that's one of them! Jesus was preparing His disciples for another Helper just like Him... who was coming.

³¹ **But these are written, that you believe that Jesus is the Christ** / the Messiah, the Son of God;

and that believing / not just sitting around, thinking about it! John wrote about taking the Lord at His word, running with His promises the rest of your life; until finally you run and meet Him face to face.

you have life eternal through His name.

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