

# The Gospel According to John “That You May Believe”

John 20:19-31



## John 20:19-23

So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.”

## John 20:24-25

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

## John 20:26-29

After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.”

Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”

## **John 20:30-31**

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

# Main Point

Jesus commissioned His disciples to proclaim the powerful message of His cross and to call people to confess and believe that He is the Christ, the Son of God.

**1 Corinthians 1:23 and 2:2**

We preach Christ crucified...

...for I determined to know nothing among you  
except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

# That You May Believe

## Jesus' Commission





## **John 20:21-22**

So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”  
And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

## **John 20:21-22**

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you;

**as the Father has sent Me,  
I also send you."**

And when He had said this, He breathed on them  
and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

## **John 17:18**

**"As You sent Me into the world,  
I also have sent them into the world."**

# **Jesus' Commission**

Go to the world with peace!

## **John 20:19-20**

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## John 20:19-20

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said to them, **“Peace be with you.”** And when He had said this,

He showed them both His hands and His side.

The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

# Jesus had promised peace to them.

## **John 14:27**

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you;  
not as the world gives do I give to you.”

## John 20:19-20

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and when the doors were shut where the disciples were,  
for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and

said to them, "Peace be with you." And **when He had said this,  
He showed them both His hands  
and His side.**

The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus did not show His hands  
and side only to prove His identity,  
but to demonstrate that the peace He  
had promised had been accomplished.

His scars were the proof  
of this peace!



## **John 20:21-22**

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So Jesus said to them again, “**Peace be with you;**  
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Jesus had given His disciples  
the peace He had promised;  
now He was sending them into the  
world with the gospel of peace.

**Ephesians 6:15**

...having shod *your feet with the preparation  
of the gospel of peace.*

# What is this message?

## Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

# Jesus' Commission

Go to the world with peace!

Go to the world with power!

## **John 20:21-22**

So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”  
And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.



John 20:21-22

So **Jesus said to them again,**  
**“Peace be with you;**  
**I also send you.”**

as the Father has sent Me,

And when He had said this, He breathed on them  
and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

Jesus announced peace and sent them out with the  
message of peace, the gospel of the cross, which is the  
**power of God** for salvation to all who believe!

## Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel,  
for **it is the power of God for salvation** to everyone  
who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

The power of the gospel is the  
power of life found in Christ Jesus.

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## John 20:21-22

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and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

# Background

## Genesis 2:7

Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground,  
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;  
and man became a living being.

The greatest gift of Jesus death is  
the gift of His life, and this is what  
He had promised to give!

## **John 5:21**

“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.”

Jesus breathed to signify that He is the giver of life and to signify that He has given the life He promised.

## John 20:22

And when He had said this, **He breathed** on them  
and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

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# What is the connection?

**John 6:63**

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”

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**are life.”**

The Holy Spirit is the *empowerer* for life in Christ Jesus by His Word. Jesus had promised the gift of His Spirit, and His command that they receive Him looked forward to the fullness of this gift at Pentecost.

## **Acts 1:8**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

The power they received is primarily the power of the gospel message made clear to them by the Spirit.

## **John 20:22-23**

And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive the sins of any,  
their sins have been forgiven them;  
if you retain the sins of any,  
they have been retained.”

## **John 20:22-23**

And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.”

This is NOT empowerment for private absolution of sins for those who confess to a priest or pastor. This is a conferral of the power and authority of gospel proclamation.



He gave them the gospel message with authority to declare forgiveness of sins to all who would believe, knowing that their sins are indeed forgiven them.

**Acts 2:38**

Peter said to them,  
“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name  
of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”

**Acts 13:38**

“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren,  
that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.”

He gave them the gospel message with authority to declare condemnation for all who would *not* believe, knowing that they are indeed condemned who do not believe.

Have you believed?

# That You May Believe

Jesus' Commission

## Thomas Confession



## **John 20:26-29**

After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

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and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it

into My side; and **do not be unbelieving,  
but believing.**"

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**Thomas answered** and said to Him,  
**"My Lord and my God!"**

# **Thomas' Confession**

**My Lord!**



## **John 20:29**

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Thomas answered and said to Him,

“**My Lord** and my God!”

## **Psalms 110:1**

The LORD says to my Lord:

“Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies  
a footstool for Your feet.”

## **John 20:29**

Thomas answered and said to Him,

“**My Lord** and my God!”

## **Revelation 19:16**

And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written,  
“KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

The confession of Christian faith  
is a confession of submission to Jesus  
as THE Lord, the anointed King.

It is the sincere declaration,  
“My Lord!”

# Thomas' Confession

My Lord!

My God!

## John 20:29

Thomas answered and said to Him,

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## **John 20:29**

Thomas answered and said to Him,

“My Lord and **my God!**”

## **Psalm 5:2**

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King **and my God.**

## **Psalm 7:1**

O LORD **my God,**  
in You I have taken refuge.

The confession of Christian faith is a confession of belief that Jesus is the Word incarnate, God in the flesh.

It is the sincere statement of covenant commitment,  
“My God!”



**“My God!”**

**Ruth 1:16**

“...where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge.  
Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.”

# That You May Believe

Jesus' Commission

Thomas Confession

## John's Conclusion



## **John 20:30-31**

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

# **John's Conclusion**

Jesus' Proofs

## **John 20:30**

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in the presence of the disciples,  
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John 20:30

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# Jesus' Signs

He turned water into wine.

He healed a boy from a distance.

He made a lame man walk.

He fed five thousand.

He walked on water.

He made a blind man see.

He raised Lazarus from the dead.

He rose from the dead.

## **John 21:25**

And there are also many other things which Jesus did,  
which if they were written in detail,  
I suppose that even the world itself would not contain  
the books that would be written.



All these works that Jesus did  
were signs declaring His identity;  
they were proofs that He is the  
Christ, the Son of God!

# John's Conclusion

Jesus' Proofs

## John's Purpose

## **John 20:31**

These have been written so that you may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;  
and that believing you may have life in His name.

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**that Jesus is** the Christ, **the Son of God;**

and that believing you may have life in His name.

These are essential propositions  
that must be believed and that sit  
at the heart of the gospel.

## **John 20:31**

These have been written  
so that you may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;

**and that believing you may have  
life in His name.**



# Conclusion

Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life;  
there is no other way, truth, or life.

He *is* Lord, so you will either bow now  
in faith and reap the rewards of eternal life;  
or you will bow then in fear and reap  
the just retribution of eternal hell.