



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #340
Jesus’ Resurrection and Eternal Ministry
Six More Resurrection Appearances of Jesus Over 40 Days

Jesus’ Sixth Resurrection Appearance: To Thomas and the Apostles
Jn 20.24-31

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24 Now Thomas (also known as Diadymus--the Twin), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples kept on telling him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he answered them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and actually put my finger where the nails were, and stab my hand into his side, there is absolutely no way that I will believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were still locked, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said,

“Peace be with you!”

27 Then he said to Thomas,

“I command you to put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and stab it into my side. I command you to stop making yourself an unbeliever, and believe.”

28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Then Jesus told him, *“Because you have seen me, you have permanently believed; blessed are those who have believed, in spite of not seeing.”*

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not permanently recorded in this book. 31 But these stand written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that because you believe, you may continue to have eternal life in his name.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	The Upper Room in Jerusalem
Timeline	April (Month 39)

Jesus' Life Context	Stage IX: The Resurrection and Eternal Ministry of Jesus
	The Resurrection and 40 Day Ministry of Jesus
	6 More Resurrection Appearances of Jesus Over 40 Days
Title:	Jesus' 6th Resurrection Appearance: To Thomas & Apostles in the Upper Room

Jesus' sixth resurrection appearance brought forth the most powerful confession of the Deity of Jesus Christ in the gospel narrative. It became the normative confession of the church age, and is still the heart of our faith today. This is what Jesus' resurrection was intended to produce in every person who learns of it.

A week had passed since the five appearances of Easter Sunday. The New Testament does not tell us of any other appearances since then. After such an intense day of non-stop appearances, the silence of the intervening six days may have confused the disciples, who still had not learned to accept that Jesus' presence with them was not dependent upon whether they saw him or not. In any case, the silence seemed to affect especially Thomas in a negative way.

Thomas had not been present when Jesus appeared to the whole group on Sunday evening a week earlier. He must have been tired of hearing about it. Jesus had commanded those present to look carefully at his hands, feet, and side, and even to touch him to assure themselves that he was physically alive. Thomas did not think it was unreasonable to desire the same confirmation from Jesus that the other disciples received before he fully committed himself again, as they had.

Thomas was an all-or-nothing kind of personality. When Jesus was ready to leave Perea and go to Bethany to raise Lazarus from the dead just a couple of months earlier, Thomas had said: *"Let us also go, that we may die with him."* Thomas had thrown all his hopes on Jesus, and was ready to risk everything to see his kingdom come. He was sure that when the death plots against Jesus turned into action to arrest him, Jesus would rise up like David and destroy his enemies, just like the Scriptures said.

The manner of Jesus' suffering and death destroyed Thomas' faith in his Lord, and himself. How could God let this happen to his own Son, who was also Daniel's "Son of man," and the Son of David? How could Thomas have been so wrong about Jesus, himself?

After seeing how mistaken he had been about the most basic truths of Scripture, and Jesus' identity, Thomas was not about to regain his faith easily. He was not that kind of man. His commitment level was too high.

Jesus' command to Thomas to **"stop making yourself an unbeliever"** is difficult to translate into English. The idea was that Thomas had reason to believe--his inclination was to believe, in light of all the evidence showed that Jesus really was alive--but he was holding himself back from committing himself again. Having been burned so badly by his misconceptions already, he had learned his lesson. He would not give his all again lightly. He had to have solid proof that he was not making another mistake. So he held himself back.

Jesus' sixth appearance was to all the disciples who were present, but it was especially for Thomas. Jesus wanted Thomas to see that believing in his resurrection was not another erroneous misconception, or misinterpretation of Scripture. It was just the opposite: faith in the atoning death and bodily resurrection of Jesus was actually the very heart of the message of the Scriptures, and the evidence that Jesus had provided-- the *"many convincing proofs"*-- was more than adequate to justify

Thomas' full commitment. There was no longer any reason for Thomas to hold himself back from believing the unbelievably joyous good news!

Thomas responded by worshipping Jesus with the strongest confession of his Deity in all the Scriptures. Thomas called Jesus YHWH (the meaning of "my Lord") and his God--straight to his face. Thomas was all-or-nothing, indeed. His total commitment to Jesus as his God was magnificent, and the best example of what it means to believe in Jesus that the Scriptures contain.

Why is the experience and example of Thomas so important? It is not because we should all seek a physical appearance of Jesus like Thomas received, before we believe in him. The point is just the opposite. The Scriptures, and the historical evidence that Thomas had seen was enough to make him believe. He had to hold himself back from his natural inclination to believe in the risen Jesus. This is true of anybody who honestly considers the Scriptures, and the evidence. The truth is compelling.

The command of Jesus is to stop fighting the inner conviction that he is truly alive from the dead, and believe instead that his death and resurrection proves that he IS the Great I AM--YHWH--the Living God and the Creator of heaven and earth. Since the evidence was enough for an extreme, all-or-nothing personality like Thomas, it is likewise enough for everyone in the world. Jesus commands all people to stop fighting our desire to believe, and begin to believe. The Apostle Paul explained it like this:

"God now commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day in which he will judge the world with justice by the Man he has appointed. He has given proof to all people by raising him from the dead." Acts 17. 30B-31

Those who believe that Jesus is alive, and is everything he ever claimed to be as God and man, receive the unspeakable blessing of "*seeing Jesus*" by faith throughout this lifetime, as we grow into ever greater conformity to his likeness, and more intimate fellowship with the Trinity in love, joy, and peace. Then we will have the crowning glory of seeing him with our actual eyes, when we are face to face with him in heaven for the first time. Every moment spent in relationship with him now--when we cannot physically see him--will be multiplied with meaning and glory when we later see him as he really is.

This is the special blessing given to those who believe from the Scriptures and the evidence that Jesus is LORD and God in this life--without ever seeing the risen Jesus.

APPLICATION:

The narrative of the the life of Jesus in the Scriptures--what we have been following in the 339 DAILY JESUS NEWS readings so far--is intended to lead each of us to all-out commitment, like Thomas, to Jesus as our Lord and God, and daily constant experience of the fulness of his eternal life in us by his Spirit.

Jesus is more alive that we can possibly conceive. He is breathing his life into the entire universe in every nano-second, and sustaining it all by his living power. Because he lives in us by his Spirit, there is more power alive in each of us than it took to birth the universe out of nothing. Jesus is powerful enough to create another universe out of nothing every successive second for the rest of eternity and never even feel a moment of fatigue or strain in doing it. This is our God.

This is the power demonstrated in his resurrection, that lives in us--and is made perfect in our weaknesses. Hallelujah!

Have you confessed your faith to Jesus, as Thomas did, as your personal LORD and God?

Do you have an all-out, no holds barred kind of commitment to your Lord and God?