# Third Street Church- BIBLE STUDY

# Wednesday, APRIL 15, 6pm

***Introductions/ Welcome/ Opening Prayer: Pastor Reid***

***Key Verse:*** *“Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” John 20:29*

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***Reading – John 20:19-31- Theme: Fear and Doubt to Assurance and Belief***

*Jesus Appears to the Disciples*

**19**When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “*Peace be with you.”* **20**After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21**Jesus said to them again, *“Peace be with you.* As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” **22**When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23**If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

*Jesus and Thomas*

**24**But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25**So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

**26**A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, *“Peace be with you.”* **27**Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” **28**Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **29**Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

*The Purpose of This Book*

**30**Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. **31**But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**Reflection**

The first half of chapter 20 focuses on the experience of Mary Magdalene is more of a study of faith in the shadows coming out into the light, the emphasis in the latter half is on overcoming unbelief. This lesson is powerful and gives details when it comes to understanding that, as it is with most things biblical, an issue not of knowledge but faith and the greater working of God’s Word. A number of **transformations** take place in these verses to illustrate this on a practical and personal level.

**Sharing/Discuss**

1. Where do these passages take place?
2. Who are the characters in this lesson?
3. Why might the people in this scripture be fearful?
4. What did the Lord do when their fear was transformed into joy in v. 20? How has God shown up in your life? How have you been transformed by God’s presence?
5. A commission is a sending, what are the words of commissioning in v. 21?
6. How have we modern day Christians been commissioned, what are we to do?
7. Jesus gave reassurance to the disciples and he also enabled them through the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 22).
8. What are other “themes” do you hear or see in these passages?(example, courage, gratitude, etc.) Share your thoughts.
9. What are some of the transformations that take place in this scripture? Who was made different, who was changed? Can you give other scriptures in John where people were transformed? Discuss/share. How are you transformed by God’s Word today?
10. Christ sees a dangerous thing in Thomas which he wants to bring to an end immediately before it can get worse. What is that? Biblical Clue: *Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. — Hebrews 3:12*

For Further Study: Why does Thomas’ confession, “My Lord and my God” sound familiar where the Gospel of John is concerned? A: It is one of the seven testimonies John records concerning the deity of Christ in this Gospel: (1) John the Baptist—Jn. 1:34 (2) Nathanael—Jn. 1:49 (3) Jesus Himself—Jn. 5:25 and Jn. 10:16 (4) Peter—Jn. 6:69 (5) The healed blind man—Jn. 9:35 (6) Martha—Jn. 11:27 (7) John himself—Jn. 20:30-31

**What Inspires you these days?**

What's giving you inspiration and hope these days? A song, hymn, scripture, special reading? How has it helped inspire you? Share with study group.

﻿**Faith in Action:**

Think of someone outside your household, call, text, email them or mail (write card or letter). We are still the church. We can reach out. That is what being the church is all about!

**Closing Prayer-Pastor Reid . Let us lift up people/situations for prayer:**

*This week add a name(s), situation(s), etc. to your prayer requests. Place on slip of paper in a place you can find it in your prayer time (bible, prayer journal, etc.)*

***Closing words and Music:*** *Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from you. Your peace you give me in times of the storm. You are the source of my strength, you are the strength of my life, I lift my hands in total praise to you. Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen Richard Smallwood, Total Praise YouTube*

***Thank you for joining our Wednesday Night Bible Study this week! May the Lord be with you all until meet again!***

***With the Love of Christ,***

***Pastor Reid***

***Please pardon any typos. Thank you.***