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John 20:19-29

19. “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.’

20. And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

21. So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’

22. And 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, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained.’

24. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25. 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.’

26. 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.’

27. 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.’

28. Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’

29. Jesus said to Him, ‘Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* they who did not see, and *yet* believed.’”

This passage relates the first appearance of Jesus to His disciples on the day of His resurrection after being in the grave for three days. The Bible declares that this occurred on the first day of the week--the day we commonly know today as Sunday.

This passage records that Thomas was not present with the other apostles that evening. When the other disciples told him that Jesus came to them alive from the grave, Thomas said, “Unless I shall 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.”

According to verse 26 of this text the following first day of the week (Sunday) Jesus appeared to the disciples again. This time Thomas was with them. He told Thomas to put his finger into the nail holes in Jesus’

hands, and put his hand into the spear-wound in Jesus' rib cage that cut through to Christ's heart. After doing so Thomas fell down before Jesus and proclaimed, "My Lord and my God."

Jesus then proclaims, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, yet believed."

Blessed are those who believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ following His death and being three days in the grave. This is the pivotal basis for the Christian faith. As the apostle Paul begins Romans, "Jesus was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead."