

Doubting Thomas
John 20:19-31

Last Sunday: The First Resurrection Witness

Today: The Truthfulness of the Resurrection

20:20/ “Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.”

Lk. 24:36-43, “As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, ‘Peace to you!’ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, ‘Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.”

20:21/ “As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

Every gospel plus the book of Acts records a different way Christ gives the Great Commission.

- Mt. 28:19-20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- Mk. 16:15, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”
- Lk. 24:46-48, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”
- Ac. 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

20:23/ “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them.” Who can forgive sins?

- The Apostles - They recorded the Scriptures and confirmed their teachings by miracles.
 - RCC invented Apostolic Succession – the apostles passed on their authority to bishops in an unbroken lineage of clergy.
 - RCC invented Auricular (“external ear”) Confession – the practice of people confessing their sins to a professional clergyman as penance or to obtain forgiveness.
 - This confession was not practiced in the RCC until the eighth century; confirmed as “biblical” in the thirteenth century under the reign of Pope Innocent III.
 - No commands or examples from the Bible; only God can forgive sin.

- We confess our sins to God. 1 Jn. 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
 - We confess our sins to one another (James 5:16).
- The Church
 - God never gives the church the power to forgive sin, but the authority to declare it. Acts 10:42-43, “He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that *everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*”

20:30/ “Now Jesus did many other signs ... not written in this book.”

1. Changing water into wine (Jn. 2:1-11)
2. Healing of the nobleman’s son (Jn. 4:46-54)
3. Healing of the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda (Jn. 5:1-15)
4. Feeding the 5,000 (Jn. 6:1-14)
5. Walking on water (Jn. 6:15-21)
6. Healing the man born blind (Jn. 9:1-12)
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead (Jn. 11:1-44)