

Believing Is Reality

1) John 20:19 – 23 NKJV

Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace *be* with you.” ²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to 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, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.”

- a. Were Jesus’ disciples hiding? Why?
- b. Why were the disciples glad when they saw Jesus’ hands and side?
- c. What happened when Jesus breathed on them?
- d. How does Jesus’ sending His disciples relate to His breathing on them?
- e. Does Jesus show us here that the Holy Spirit can empower a believer to forgive?

2) John 20:24 - 31

²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.” ³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

- a. Is there significance to Jesus returning after 8 days? What else happened on the 8th day?
- b. What convinced Thomas that Jesus rose? What does that mean for us?
- c. What have we been given that we might believe?

3) John 21:1 – 6

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed *Himself*:² Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the *sons* of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.⁴ But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?” They answered Him, “No.”⁶ And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some*.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

a. What is the significance of Peter going fishing? Is this where Jesus was sending him?

b. Do you think that Peter grew impatient or missed the familiar while waiting for Jesus?

c. What is the meaning for us today of Jesus telling His disciples to fish on the right side of the boat?

4) John 21:7 - 14

⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.⁸ But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.⁹ Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.”¹¹ Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.¹² Jesus said to them, “Come *and* eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”, knowing that it was the Lord.¹³ Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.¹⁴ This *is* now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

a. Where did Jesus get the fish and bread He was cooking on the beach?

b. Why ask the disciples to bring the fish they had just caught to the meal when Jesus already had food cooking?

c. Why did Jesus want to eat with them? Why is that significant for our belief?