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Thomas

My name is Thomas. Just Thomas. Please don't call me Doubting Thomas, like some people have started to do. That's a nickname I don't think I deserve! Ask anyone who knows me well. They'll tell you I've never been a person who goes along with the crowd just to fit in. Peer pressure doesn't work on me. I don't believe something just because someone else has told me it's true. I want proof.

That's why, when my ten friends, all close followers of Jesus, told me the Lord had appeared to them—after He'd died and been buried—well, that was something I had to see for myself. I told them that unless I could touch the marks from the nails on Jesus' hands and the wound where the soldier's spear had pierced His side, I wouldn't believe He'd risen from the dead. But, as always, my friend Jesus knew exactly how to help me believe in things that seem impossible ...

About a week after my friends told me they'd seen Jesus, we were gathered together, talking, eating, and praying, like friends do. Then Jesus appeared right there with us! Did I mention all the doors in the room were locked? But suddenly, there He was, as alive as you and me. Jesus stood right in front of me and invited me to touch the wounds on His hands and side.

I fell to my knees and cried out, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). I couldn't raise my head, let alone my hands. I didn't need to touch Him. I didn't need anything more than the presence of the Lord right by my side. Jesus wasn't upset that I hadn't believed what the other disciples had said; He is too full of love. But He did say that people who don't have the chance to see Him, yet still believe in Him, would be blessed.

I'm blessed too! I know for sure my Lord is alive. And there's more good news: Jesus promised that His Spirit would remain close to anyone who has faith in Him—as close to them as He was to me in that locked room. From now on, I'll never doubt my Lord is with me. I know He's always by my side—even when I can't see Him!



What's something you can't see but you know is real?

How would seeing Jesus in person change how you feel about Him?

How did Jesus feel about Thomas? How do you think Jesus feels about you—questions and all?

