

## International Conversation Cafe

New Testament: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Luke 24, John 20

Jesus Christ died during his crucifixion, and was buried in a cave, which was then covered with a large rock. Roman soldiers guarded the tomb. He rose from the dead on the third day. There are many evidences of the resurrection. One of the strongest evidences comes from eyewitness accounts. The following Scripture is one of these accounts.

Luke 24

It was very early in the morning on the first day of the week. The women took the spices they had prepared. Then they went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from it. When they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They were wondering about this.

Suddenly two men in clothes as bright as lightning stood beside them. The women were terrified. They bowed down with their faces to the ground.

Then the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here! He has risen! Remember how he told you he would rise. It was while he was still with you in Galilee. He said, 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people. He must be nailed to a cross. On the third day he will rise from the dead.'"

Then the women remembered Jesus' words.

They came back from the tomb. They told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them were the ones who told the apostles. But the apostles did not believe the women. Their words didn't make any sense to them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. He bent over and saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. Then he went away, wondering what had happened.

Resurrect **1**. To bring the body back to life; raise from the dead.

Reincarnate **1**. To cause to be reborn in another body; incarnate again.

American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

*Retell the story in your own words.*

*Does anything in this story surprise you?*

Jesus appeared many times to his disciples before he ascended to heaven. The following passage, from John 20, tells of Jesus appearing to Thomas, one of the twelve.

Thomas was one of the Twelve. He was called Didymus. He was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "First I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe what you say."

A week later, Jesus' disciples were in the house again. Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood among them.

He said, "May peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed."

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in front of his disciples. They are not written down in this book. But these are written down so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If you believe this, you will have life because you belong to him.

#### Discussion

1. Describe Thomas' attitude toward Jesus and Jesus' attitude toward Thomas.
2. What do you do about doubts?
3. What wisdom can we glean from this account?
4. Describe what you see in this painting.



Caravaggio. *The Incredulity of Saint Thomas*. 1601-02. Oil on canvas. 107 x 146 cm. Schloss Sanssouci, Potsdam