

KEY VERSE:

*Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed;
blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

John 20:29



BLESSED ARE THOSE
WHO HAVE NOT SEEN
AND YET BELIEVE.



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FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

24th April, 2016

The Eleven including
Thomas



CHALFONT
ST. PETER
PARISH CHURCHES

KNOW WHAT:

- This is the season of Easter when we celebrate the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. We are looking at some of Jesus' resurrection appearances.
- Last week we looked at the miraculous catch of fish, when the risen Jesus appeared to the disciples by the Sea of Galilee and told Peter he was forgiven.
- This week we see Jesus appearing to his disciples in an upstairs room with a locked door. Jesus wished them peace. Thomas was not there and refused to believe that Jesus was alive when the other disciples said he was. He said he needed to touch Jesus' wounds as proof.
- A week later, when Thomas was with the disciples in the same room, Jesus appeared again and proved to Thomas that he had died and risen again. Thomas said: "My Lord and my God."
- Jesus said the disciples were blessed when they believed because they had seen Jesus but that people who believed even when they had not seen him were even more blessed.

SO WHAT:

- Jesus demonstrated beyond doubt that he had risen from the dead and invited people to believe in him.
- Our belief does not depend on actually seeing Jesus but on trusting in his word as we read it in the Bible.

NOW WHAT:

- Let us examine the evidence that Jesus rose from the dead. As we see that the evidence is incontrovertible we should yield our lives to him.

JIM'S JOTTINGS

An Encounter which Changes your Life

Most of us have had seemingly chance encounters which change the rest of our lives. Perhaps it was a person we met at school who has become a lifelong friend, or someone we met at a club or in a pub who started as a casual acquaintance and ended up as your husband/wife. Maybe it was a doctor who listened to your problem long enough to find the right diagnosis and treatment. Or it could be a job ad to which you responded half-heartedly and then found a new career.

Thomas, one of Jesus' closest disciples was not with the other disciples when Jesus showed himself to them as risen from the dead. He had seen Jesus killed and not unreasonably refused to believe their account unless he saw for himself. A week later he did just that: Jesus appeared to him and he believed beyond any shadow of doubt that Jesus was alive.

Jesus loved Thomas and wanted to assure him that he had beaten death. Jesus loves us too and wants us also to know that he is alive. He had great plans for Thomas and he has great plans for us too. We cannot see Jesus physically but we can meet him by faith and respond as Thomas: "My Lord and my God."