

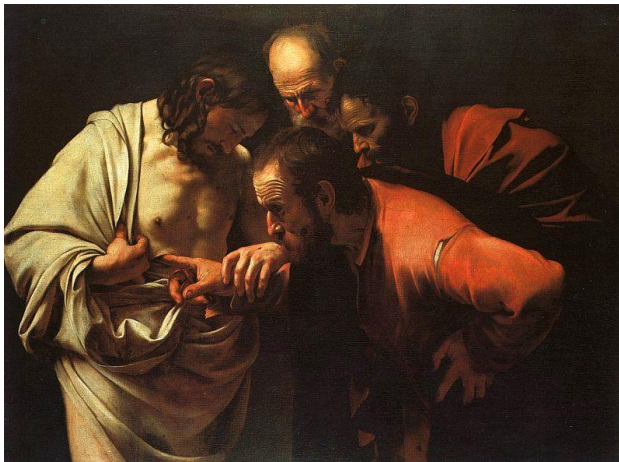
May 3rd, 2020

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Title: Where Have You Seen the Lord?

Introduction: John 20:19-31 invites us to think about the times and places we have seen the risen Jesus Christ. What was it that made you believe in Jesus Christ? Was it seeing, touching, feeling the wounds that made you believe? Is that how you recognized the fullness of his humanity by seeing the wounds? Where have you seen Jesus in your life?

In the Scripture for today, we hear that Thomas needed to see Jesus' wounds in order to prove his resurrection. We do not hear anybody else saying, "I want to see and touch Jesus' wound". It is only in verse 18 where we hear that Mary had seen the Lord and I believe she saw the Lord because she was looking for him. If you look for Jesus, you will find him. But in verse 27, we hear that while Thomas was in the house with the rest of the disciples, Jesus appeared to them and told Thomas to touch the wound. When Thomas saw and touched Jesus, then he believed.



What can we learn from Thomas?

We can learn from Thomas that from the day he recognized his problem of doubting and believed in the resurrection of Jesus, he was blessed and later became a blessing to many. There are many historical details given concerning Thomas' last days on earth. However, two things are clear:

1. In AD 52-72 Thomas was an apostle of Christ to India. During this time, he had such a strong witness and he became a blessing to many and to date there is still evidence for it in South India.
2. Thomas was faithful until he died according to Syrian Christian Traditions.

Reflections

What if Jesus was here today and tells you to see the wound? Would it be an enjoyable thing to see a wound? How many of you enjoy seeing a wound? How about touching the wound?

Conclusion:

There are many wounds of Jesus in our community today.

The following example is a specific way of touching the wound in our community:

Connect the needs of the world to the resources of the church and community (county government offices). There is an unending number of ways we can help our community see the grace and love of Jesus Christ. In turn, we are given a glimpse of touching the wounds of the risen Jesus in the people we serve. Where have you seen the risen Lord with the wounds? What are we going to do about the wounds?