

“JESUS ON THE MOVE”
“Jesus Moves through Doubt”

We are an Easter people! While Lent is forty days, the Celebration of Easter is fifty days ending with Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Easter is a celebration of resurrection of new life and of the power of Christ to change and transform the world through his followers. Our Easter sermon series encourages us to continue to be on the move, “*Jesus on the Move: Offering New Life.*” The disciples had to see Jesus, and had to see how Jesus moves out of the tomb and back into their lives. When they first experience the resurrected Christ, Thomas, unfortunately, was not there. It was hard for Thomas to believe, but Jesus helps us move through doubt. This week we focus on the Thomas’ encounter with the Risen Christ. Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Jesus Moves through Doubt”**

Daily prayer:

God of new beginnings, free us from the fear of change. May our experience of Easter so change our lives that they express your boundless love. Amen. (Joy Tetley, England)

This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, April 29, 2019 John 20: 19-23

The disciples were in a locked room. They had heard the women's testimony, but obviously didn't believe it. They had locked the doors and were gathered together, but were afraid. Jesus appeared in the midst of them, and offers them peace and the Spirit. *How do you think the disciples felt after experiencing the risen Christ? Having doubted the women's words, do you think they felt foolish, surprised or relieved? Putting yourself in that room, how do you think you would feel and react? Jesus is on the move and moves the disciples from doubt to faith. How does Jesus help you experience faith?*

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 John 20: 24-25

The disciples, men and women, were energized by their encounter of the risen Christ. Thomas was alone. The women and the other disciples had all claimed to see Jesus. *Do you wonder why Thomas was not with them? Did he miss the time so he could not enter the room because the doors were locked? Was it too much? Was his grief so deep, he just wanted to be alone? The reasons are never stated, only that Thomas was not with the others when they encountered the Risen Lord. When they shared their experience, Thomas stubbornly stated he would not believe without very physical proof. Is this story about doubt? Is it about experience? The others moved from disbelief to faith based on their seeing the risen Christ. How is Thomas different? Didn't Thomas want to be moved by the same experience? How are you moved to change your mind and your belief? Is it by the opinions of others or your own experience?*

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 John 20: 26-29

Finally, after a week, Thomas is with the others and he encounters the risen Christ. Thomas is given peace and an opportunity to do everything he said he had to do in order to believe. Thomas then affirms his faith in Christ and Jesus blesses generations to come. Some scholars believe that Jesus' words in verse 29 are a rebuke to Thomas' unwillingness to believe. Others believe Jesus' words are a blessing to all who believe yet are never given an opportunity to see. *What do you think? Do you think Thomas was unreasonable to ask for what the others had already experienced? Would you have asked for the same thing?*

Thursday, May 2, 2019 John 20: 30-31

The writer of the gospel of John understood that there was no way all the stories, sayings and healings of Jesus could be recorded. John hoped that the things shared would make a difference, and would *"make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."* Jesus promised a special blessing for those who didn't "see" but believed, like the generation upon generation that followed those early disciples. Not only is Thomas moved to believe, but we are too. *Where do you see Jesus on the move in your life?*

Friday, May 3, 2019 Revelation 1: 4-8

In these verses from the last book in our New Testament, the author is witnessing to his faith in the resurrected Christ. The promise is that Jesus is on the move, not only out of the tomb, but coming in our future as well. As the gospel of John states, Christ has been with us in the past, is with us now and will be in our future. This is the promise of God to us: God moves generation to generation. *How do you experience and know in your heart the gift of new life and resurrection? How is Jesus moving in your life and spirit and how are you witnessing to the risen Christ in all you say and do?*