

**The Great Charter of the Church —
Jesus Appears to the Disciples
John 20:19–23**

(see Mk. 16:14; Lk. 24:36-49)

<p>1. <i>The disciples were hiding in fear</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Was the same day: At nightb. Were discussing the reportc. Jesus appeared — suddenly <p>2. <i>The risen Lord, His presence, was very real</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. His message: Peaceb. His wounds: Evidencec. His effect: Unbelievable joy when they saw Him <p>3. <i>The risen Lord assigned the great commission to His disciples</i></p> <p>4. <i>The risen Lord breathed the Holy Spirit into the disciples</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The endowment or giving of the Spiritb. The authority given	<p>19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”</p> <p>20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.</p> <p>21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”</p> <p>22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”</p>
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The Great Conviction – Thomas’ Confession John 20:24–29

1. *Thomas’ frustrated, reactionary spirit*

- a. The reason:
Guilt – he had forsaken and withdrawn from them
- b. The disciples testified; Thomas argued

2. *Thomas’ false picture of Jesus*

- a. He was just an earthly deliverer
- b. He was now dead
- c. Result:
Persistent doubt for eight days

3. *Thomas’ critical confrontation and confession: Jesus appeared, and He challenged and convicted him*

- a. The confrontation
 - 1) Jesus was aware of Thomas’ demands
 - 2) Jesus warned and called for belief
- b. The strong confession

3. *Thomas’ great lesson for all men: The person who believes without seeing will be far more blessed than those who demand proof*

24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

27 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.”

28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

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