

- I. **The Disciples relate to Thomas their previous encounter with Jesus (which Thomas has missed, being absent), that they had “seen the Lord.”**
- II. **Thomas responds by citing his conditions for believing, without which being fulfilled he will not believe:**
 - A. He must see the nail marks in his hands.
 - B. He must put his finger where the nails were.
 - C. He must put his hand into his side.
- III. **A week later the disciples are all gathered together, including Thomas.**
 - A. Jesus appears in the same manner as in the last appearance:
 1. Jesus appears behind locked doors.
 2. Jesus comes and stands among them.
 3. Jesus says, “Peace be with you!”
 - B. Jesus confronts Thomas, apparently aware of his prior statement, and addresses his three criteria for believing:
 1. Jesus tells Thomas to *place*: “put your finger here.”
 2. Jesus tells Thomas to *see*: “see my hands.”
 3. Jesus tells Thomas to *reach out*: “put your hand into my side.”
 - C. Jesus exhorts Thomas in light of his conditions having been fulfilled:
 1. Stop doubting.
 2. Start believing.
 - D. Thomas responds with a faith confession: “My Lord and My God!”
 - E. Jesus provides the meaning of his encounter with Thomas:
 1. Thomas has believed because he has seen.
 2. Those who have not seen and yet believed are blessed.
- IV. **John connects this account with the purpose of his writing his gospel:**
 - A. Jesus did many more signs in the presence of his disciples than recorded here.
 - B. What is recorded here has been written:
 1. That the reader might believe:
 - a. That Jesus is the Messiah.
 - b. That Jesus is the Son of God.
 2. That the reader, having believed, might experience life in his name.