



Posted on March 31, 2017
Written by Nathanael Vissia

This material is the copyrighted property of rfour.org. It is also free. Please use, improve and share this material. But do not ever pay for it, sell it or require any sharing of personal information for it.

An rfour.org Children's Time Message

For more information visit www.rfour.org/childrenstime.html

Written for Sunday, April 23, 2017

2nd Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [John 20:19-31](#) [**Summary:** *Doubting Thomas Gets A Second Chance*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

ASK (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- When you are riding in a car, what are some things that you might spend a lot of time looking at that are *inside* the car? [*A book, a movie, the person you are talking to, a video game, etc.*]
- So when you are riding in a car looking at these things that are inside the car, has someone else in the car ever pointed at something that was outside of the car and said, "Look at that! Do you see that!?"
- But when you look, it's too late - you've passed by the thing?
- Which means you might ask one or more of the following questions, like...
 - "What was it?"
 - Where was it?
 - What did it look like?
 - I can't see it -- can you still see it?
 - Can we turn around and go look at it again?"
- Sound familiar? Ever have that happen to you?

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- Well, in today's scripture story, we hear about how a disciple of Jesus' (Thomas), has something like that happen to him (without the car thing, of course)

- Well, in today's scripture story, we hear about how a disciple of Jesus' (Thomas), has something like that happen to him (without the car thing, of course)
- The story starts with the disciples getting to see Resurrected Jesus.
- They were all gathered together, like Jesus had told them to do, and they were praying and then suddenly, Jesus was in their midst.
- It was pretty exciting for everybody! And at first, a little scary, too.
- But there was one problem: Thomas was not there.
- And, because Thomas wasn't there, he missed seeing what the rest of the disciples saw.
- The disciples then told Thomas what had happened. But he wasn't too trusting in what they said.
- Which is sort of like what we were just talking about, right? Where we sometimes miss seeing something that's pretty cool because we were paying attention to something else.
- But here's what's different: In a car, because you are not driving, you are not expected to look at what's outside of the car. HOWEVER, Thomas was expected to be there with the disciples.
- Thomas was NOT being a good disciple/student here. Thomas was not doing what he was supposed to be doing. Here's what he did wrong:
 1. He didn't listen to his teacher
 2. Because he didn't listen to his teacher, he missed out on seeing something very cool
 3. And THEN, because of the things he did wrong as a student, he didn't even believe his fellow students about what happened...

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- But the good news for Thomas was that he got a second chance.
- He realized he could be a student who did what his teacher told him to do.
- And, once Thomas did what he was supposed to do (hang out with the other disciples and pray with them), then he, too, saw Resurrected Jesus.
- The good news for *us* is that it is not too late for us, either. We, too, can still follow and learn from Jesus.
- We, too, can gather together with fellow disciples of Jesus and pray together.
- And when we do this, we, too, will be able to see Resurrected Jesus!

- Now, probably not in the same way that Thomas and the disciples did, but we will certainly be able to better see how Jesus is with us and helping us right here and now.
- And that's the good news for today.
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus.

Thank you for Jesus.

...who gives us many chances...

...who gives us many chances...

...to see and know...

...to see and know...

...what he knows about you.

...what he knows about you.

Thank you and Amen.