

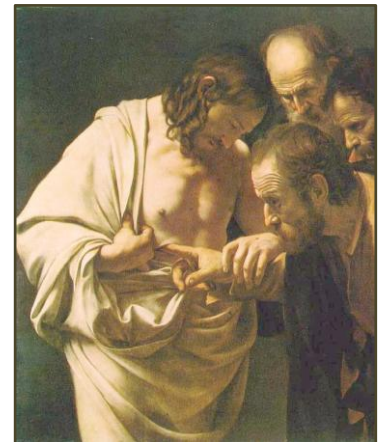
Thomas Sunday

The Sunday that follows the resurrection Sunday of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, is known in the church as "Thomas Sunday". In It, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared, for the second time, to the disciples where they were gathered in the upper room and Thomas was with them as mentioned in (John 20:24-29). It's evident that He appeared this time specifically for Thomas to see Him and to touch His wound, and for Thomas to be confident in His victory over death and His glorious resurrection.

The church also calls this Sunday "The New Sunday", as the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ has appeared in it anew appearance. And because of this appearance, someone's life was changed and was renewed, a person who doubted the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and His ability to defeat death so he cried, saying, "*My Lord and my God*".. As though the Church says that the true experience of the resurrected Christ becomes a new dawn for everyone.

In fact, we may not be in a better position than that of Thomas. Maybe we still don't believe, until now, in the power of Christ that is able to defeat the death in our lives and to change it to the better. Perhaps we should ask ourselves:

- + Where is the power of resurrection in changing our conduct?
- + Where is the resurrection in our lives, if we still envy, hate, want to take revenge, and do not accept others who are different from us?
- + Where is the resurrection in our lives, if we still utter words without having an account for them, words that mock or judge others and sometimes offend and curse others?
- + Where is the resurrection in our lives, if we still keep alcohol and sometimes drugs in our homes?
- + Where is the resurrection, when some of us still keep inappropriate pictures on their Personal Computers and are unwilling to completely get rid of them for good?
- + How do we say that the resurrection freed us, and we are still enslaved to bad habits and frivolous behaviors?
- + Where is the resurrection, while we still rely on the arms of men, on money, and on our smarts; which lead, those who depend on them, down to the bottom of Hades!



The words of the Lord Jesus to Thomas today are for all of us "*Do not be unbelieving, but believing*" (John 20:27). This means that we need to feel the love of Christ and to feel his wounds which He took for our sake. Thus, we take from Him the power of His resurrection to be freed from all the bonds of sin. It also means that we need to go beyond our stubbornness, closed mindedness, being opinionated, and rejecting others. And also means that we need to believe and trust in the power of the resurrected Christ to change our lives. Only then, the resurrection comes alive in us, renews us every day and every hour.

Reflections inspired by the resurrection:

- + Christ was nailed to the cross, so that His beloved ones are no longer nailed to their sins.
- + The Joy of the resurrection does not mean to neglect our alertness, but the resurrection entails continuous vigilance, enlightenment, and full commitment to the path and the commandments of He who raised us with Him.
- + The resurrection of Christ can pervade all barriers, even the barriers of ignorance, doubt and fear.
- + Dealing with the closed doors of the hearts is much more difficult for the Lord Jesus than dealing with the closed doors of the house. The resurrected Christ can easily pervade the former, while He can't pervade the latter without the will of man. Because He respects our freedom and our choices, He remains standing at the door knocking, and blessed is he who opens to Him.
- + The main effort that the Lord Jesus Christ asks from us in the season of resurrection is to get rid of the sources of bad habit. He asks us to get rid of the sources of hatred and loathing, the sources of boasting and pride, the sources of cruelty and violence, the sources of the love of money and vanity, the sources of defilement and inappropriate pleasures. He asks us to empty our hearts from the love of darkness such that the Lord fills us with the light of His resurrection, "*Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.*" (Eph 5:14)

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