

# **The Doors Were Locked**

**4-5-26**

John 20:19 (NIV)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

**Jesus has been crucified and the disciples are in total disbelief. They are afraid the Jewish leaders are also going to come and arrest them, so they are hiding in a house securely locking all the doors. Then Jesus appears before them and shows them HIS wounds on HIS hands and side. Lesson: Jesus is alive and even when all the earthly doors are locked, HE will meet with us. Now one disciple, Thomas, is not among them when they see the resurrected Jesus. So, when they see him, they enthusiastically tell Thomas that they have seen Jesus. Thomas doesn't believe them. This is where we get the phrase doubting Thomas. He says that unless he puts his fingers in the hole of Jesus' hands and puts his hand in the spear wound on HIS side he would never believe. So, about a week later, Thomas is with the disciples in the same house with all the doors securely locked.**

John 20:25-29 (NIV) NO/OH

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.” 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!” 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.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

**Jesus is alive! Even though we may not physically see HIM, HE is still knocking on the door of our heart. For example, years later the Apostle Paul went down by a river in the town of Philippi and spoke to some women gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord “opened her heart to respond” to Paul’s message about Jesus, that HE died for her sins and rose again.**

**Once she believed she and the members of her household were baptized. Notice that Lydia didn't just respond on her own. Jesus touched her heart. People say, "I decided to trust Jesus." This is true, but what really happens is that God moves in our hearts, or HE knocks on the door of our heart. After we trust the resurrected Jesus, HE forgives us of all our sins. Now we are forgiven and Jesus comes to live within us. Now as a forgiven child of God, God continues to open doors for us. In Acts chapter 16, God gives us a physical picture of how God is working all around us even if we don't immediately see it. Paul and Silas are thrown into prison. Unphased, they sing hymns together. Then God moves.**

Acts 16:26 (NIV)

Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

**If we open the door of our heart when Jesus knocks, not only does HE forgive us, BUT HE ALSO opens all sorts of doors around us.**

**With Jesus things change. It is totally appropriate to pray for an open door.**

**First, we need to realize that Jesus is knocking at the door. In a manner of speaking, we need to unlock the door and ask HIM to come in.**

Revelations 3:20 (NIV)

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

**The decision is ours. When Jesus knocks, unlock the door! With Jesus things change. Look what happens when we open the door.**

Colossians 2:13-14 (NIV)

God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled \*(everything,) which stood against us and condemned us; HE has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

**WE are forgiven. Our sins are nailed to the cross. Just open the door.**

\*(the charge of our legal indebtedness)