



I. INTRO

- A. It is finished

John 19:28-30 (TLB) ²⁸ Jesus knew that everything was now finished, and to fulfill the Scriptures said, "I'm thirsty." ²⁹ A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so a sponge was soaked in it and put on a hyssop branch and held up to his lips. ³⁰ When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished," and bowed his head and dismissed his spirit.

- B. It looked like it was over, but it wasn't
- Saying it was finished when it wasn't finished is the lesson
- C. The truth is, not everyone is in the season of celebration
- D. The disciples had experienced a great loss
- While we all experience loss, we tend to experience it differently

II. THE DISCIPLES WERE OVERJOYED WHEN THEY SAW THE LORD

- A. There is always joy when Jesus shows up

John 20:19-20 (NIV) ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

- B. It's great when God shows up, but not so great when you miss the moment

John 20:24 (NIV) Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

John 20:25a (NIV) So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" ...

- C. Thomas was still feeling the loss

John 20:25b (NIV) ... 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."

- Thomas only heard about a miracle that everyone else got to experience



III. THE TRUTH ABOUT THOMAS

- A. Thomas wasn't always "doubting Thomas"
 - John 11 and the story of Lazarus
- B. Today is a good day to die!

John 11:14-16 (NIV) ¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

- In just a few chapters Thomas went from "I'll die with you" faith to "I won't believe"

IV. THE REST OF THE STORY

- A. Show up

John 20:26 (NIV) 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!"

- The people of faith made room for the one with no faith

- B. Jesus showed up for the one

John 20:27-28 (NIV) 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!"

- C. Grace never quits

IV. I'LL BE BACK

- A. We tend to see the cross as a conclusion – Jesus died for us and now He's alive
 - Everything that Jesus accomplished on the cross was for a purpose far bigger than just us

Acts 1:1 (NLT) In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach

- B. Jesus started something, but it's not yet finished

Acts 1:9-11 (NLT) ⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"