

Welcome to Bible Study 24 April 2022 – UNLESS I


Welcome everyone!

Opening Prayer Please pray together
Dear Lord, send your Living Word
through our locked doors
and into our guarded hearts
that we might be witnesses of your grace
and messengers of your goodness.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,
grant us the trust to truly believe the Gospel
not because we see it but because we have been seen by it
and then have been transformed through it, Amen.

Q 1 In a World where reality is constantly brought into question and fake news seems to be the order of the day. How do we not at times doubt our own faith?

Music Worship

Immortal, invisible, God only wise
How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
All I have and all I am is yours 

Word: Psalm 118.14-29

- ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.
¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;
¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”
¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.
¹⁸ The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.
¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.
²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
²³ This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.
²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.
²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.
²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Word: John 20.19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Discussion

I love doubting Thomas. He is real. His reaction to the disciples was so honest. I won't believe unless I see. **Q 2 How do you think you would of reacted in Thomas's situation?**

Sadly, lying seems to have become the norm with politicians to news presenters and it is difficult to trust all the information thrown at us on a daily basis

Q 3 Please discuss - Do you think it is wrong to seek or even demand evidence?

Jesus isn't annoyed at Thomas for his doubt. He reassures you and I that we are blessed because we believed in him without seeing. What was important is that Thomas realized who Jesus really was and went on to be a great disciple.

Q 4 Please discuss your personal discipleship

Works - Who can we pray for and reach out to this week as we celebrate our risen Lord and the true joy of what Easter is really all about!

Ending prayer Please pray together

The help of the saving Christ, Jesus; the wisdom of the Living God, our Lord God; and the support of the loving Spirit, The Holy Spirit, be with you every step of our way, now and always, Amen.

Shalom

Darren (Ref Roots on the Web, Life Application Study Bible)