

# Christ Appears to the Disciples by Garrett Lane

## [Discussion Session]

John 20:19-31

### ***Gospel of John***

- ❖ John's Gospel is primarily written to be an encouragement to a Christian community.
  - It's helpful to remember this as we read any part of John.
  - John has stories in it that are specific to this book.
- ❖ The interaction between Jesus and Thomas is specific to the Gospel of John.

### ***Christ Appears***

- ❖ Jesus has appeared to Mary Magdalene earlier in the chapter.
  - In all the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), Jesus appears to women and then to others later.
- ❖ He gives them His peace and breathes His spirit on them.
  - Jesus is symbolically moving His ministry to the disciples.

### ***Jesus, Thomas, and the Church***

- ❖ This passage of scripture deals with doubt.
  - Thomas is honest in his doubt. He is not reprimanded for what he says.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit moves, and the disciples are sent out.
  - This is a major theme in Luke and Acts. The Holy Spirit moves, and all respond.
  - We continue the redemptive work of Christ as the Church by the Holy Spirit.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. The resurrection of Christ is arguably *the* focal point of the Christian faith.
  - a. Remembering that the Gospel of John is meant to be an encouraging book, how do you think that the disciples were feeling up to the moment that Jesus appeared to them? Do you think that they were unsure if Jesus would return?
  - b. How do we continue to participate in the redemptive work of Jesus today?
2. Why do you think Jesus interacts with Thomas in this way?
  - a. How does Jesus respond to doubt?
3. In the gospel of John, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on His disciples and sends them out. In what ways does the Holy Spirit move today?
4. How does this passage connect to the life of our church?
5. What are some challenging things for you in this passage?