

Second Sunday Easter –C- 2019
Acts 5.12-16 /// Revelation 1.9-11;12-13;17-19 /// John 20.19-31

→ “I’ll believe it when I see it”

---how often have we said that...about someone or something

→the Browns have made some incredible moves this past season...igniting a renewed interest....some are even talking playoffs, maybe even a Super Bowl appearance...at least...many thinkthey are going to contend this year.... *“I’ll believe it when I see it”*

→if you follow this diet...I guarantee you will lose weight.... *“I’ll believe it when I see it”*

→early predictions say...it is going to be a hot summer this year.. *“I’ll believe it when I see it!”*

→the Lord has risen...we have seen him... *“I’ll believe it when I put my fingers into the nail marks...and my hand into his side”*

→and from that one tiny incident we hear about today, Thomas has forever been labeled throughout scripture as -----doubting Thomas

---a title given to him for not believing as the other disciples had

---even Peter, who denied even knowing Jesus in his time of need....an action much more severe than what Thomas did, didn’t receive a label....like Thomas has

---but when you think about it more closely....I think Thomas has gotten a bad deal over the years and even more so I really don’t think Thomas deserves the title ----
“doubting Thomas”

---if anything, I think Thomas deserves the title ----“believing Thomas”
because by end of today’s gospel reading we hear...Thomas making one of the strongest
professions of faith that we ever find in the Scriptures.

from the start of today’s gospel to the end...Thomas undergoes a radical change
and transformation of heart and of belief

→and hopefully it is the same type of change and transformation we have
experienced also because of Easter and the resurrection

PAUSE

→today we continue our celebration of Easter, the resurrection of Jesus, which we
proclaim to the whole world and to one another

→and just like Thomas, because of the resurrection, we too have been changed
and transformed.

→in today’s Gospel, J. appears to the disciples and breathes on them...he imparts
the Holy Spirit, the source of new life

→and in doing so, J. changes them

→on that day the disciples...locked in that room became different

→they believed in Jesus and they believed in the resurrection...and as a result they were
changed....they were different

→but...Thomas has a hard time believing, **until** he sees Jesus himself///// and
touches the marks of his wounds...and when he does....**he believes** and this belief makes
him into a new person as well. [PAUSE]

→and we too are new people because of our belief

→we are new people because we have realized THAT THROUGH the resurrection and BECAUSE of the resurrection God indeed loves us.....God has saved us.....and God is present to us

→and now our task, as was the task of the disciples of long ago, and Christians throughout history, is to witness to that love of God in our world and in our communities and in our families.

→unfortunately, however, there are too many people today who do not feel God's love in their lives...[rather] they feel alone, or abandoned,...they feel unwanted, unappreciated, unaccepted...they don't feel loved

→[and so]....our task, is to realize that God indeed does love us, and that his message needs to be spread to each other through our words and deeds and actions

PAUSE

→the Gospel reading today is a familiar story...in fact we hear it every year on this first Sunday after Easter

→it centers on our belief in the resurrection of the Lord... something that Thomas had a hard time doing at first....and something that today many people struggle with as well.

PAUSE

---and so I believe our challenge today is no different...our challenge is to witness to each other...to SHOW ONE ANOTHER that life can indeed be different because of the resurrection

--that life can be good and worthwhile and meaningful because of the resurrection of Christ

PAUSE

-----the resurrection has changed us....making us into the people of God

→and **THAT** is what we need to continue to witness too...by our words
and actions towards one another

---i.o.w....we need to become just like Thomas....not a doubter but a believer.