



EASTER: INVITATION TO BELIEVE

Who is Jesus?

BYSTANDER
JOHN & THE RABBI FROM NAZARETH



Nobody expected no body.

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Many believed in Jesus.

Problem: Too many!

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Brand **New** Covenant

Brand **New** Command

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*Then (Finally) **Pilate** handed Jesus over to them.
So the **soldiers** seized him
and took him away to be **crucified**.
Jesus **carried** his own **cross** out of the city,
to the place called "**The Skull**,"
which in Aramaic is **Golgotha**.
And there they **nailed him** to the cross.
He was **crucified**, along with two others,
one on each side with **Jesus** in the middle.*

John 19: 16-18 TPT

*Jesus knew that his mission was accomplished,
and to fulfill the Scripture (Psalm 22: 15; 69:21),
Jesus said: "I am thirsty."*

*A jar of sour wine was sitting nearby,
so they soaked the sponge with it and put it
on the stalk of hyssop and raised it to his lips.
When he had sipped the sour wine, he said,
"It is finished (fulfilled), my bride!"*

*Then he bowed his head
and surrendered his spirit to God.*

John 19: 28-30 TPT

*I, John (the man who saw this - NIV),
do testify (eyewitness)
to the certainty of what took place (happened),
and I write (document) the truth
so that you might also believe.*

John 19: 35 TPT

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After this, *Joseph* for the city of Ramah (*Arimathea*),
who was a *secret disciple* of Jesus
for *fear* of the Jewish authorities,
ask *Pilate* if he could *remove* the body of *Jesus*.
So Pilate granted him permission
to remove the *body* from the *cross*.

Now *Nicodemus*, who had once *come* to Jesus *privately* at night,
accompanied Joseph, and *together* they *carried*
a significant amount (*75 pounds*) of *myrrh* and *aloes* to the cross.
Then they took Jesus; *body* and *wrapped it* in strips of *linen* with the
embalming spices according to the Jewish burial customs.
... And because the *Sabbath* was approaching, and the *tomb* nearby,
that's *where* they laid the body of *Jesus*.

John 19: 38-42 TPT

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So she (*Mary Magdalene*) went *running* as fast as she could to go tell *Peter* and the *other disciple* (i.e. John),
the *one Jesus loved*,
She told them, "They've *taken* the Lord's *body* from the *tomb*, and we don't know *where* he is!"
Then Peter and the other disciple (John) *jumped up* and *ran* to the tomb to go *see* for themselves.
They *started out together*, but the *other disciple* (John) *outran* Peter and *reached* the tomb *first*.
He (John) didn't *enter* the tomb, but *peeked in*, and *saw* only the *linen* cloths (strips) lying there.

John 20: 2-5 TPT

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Then *Peter* came *behind* him
and went right (*straight*) into the *tomb*.
He too *noticed* the *linen* cloths lying there,
but the *burial cloth* that had been on *Jesus' head*
had been rolled up and *placed separate* for the other cloths.
Then (finally) the *other disciple* (John)
who had *reached* the tomb *first* went in,
and after *one look* (saw),
he (John) *believed!*

John 20: 6-8 TPT

*One of the twelve wasn't present when Jesus appeared to them -
it was **Thomas**, whose nickname was "the Twin."*

So the disciples informed him,

*"We have **seen** the **Lord** (Jesus) with our own **eyes!**"*

*Still **unconvinced**, Thomas replied,*

*"There's **no way** I'm going to **believe** this **unless**
I personally **see** the **wounds** of the nails in his **hands**,*

***touch** them with my **finger**,*

*and put my **hand** into the **wound** of his side*

*where he was **pierced!**"*

John 20: 24-25 TPT

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Then *eight days* later,
Thomas and all the others were in the house together.
And even though the doors were locked,
Jesus suddenly stood before them!
“*Peace* be with you,” he said.
Then, *looking* into Thomas’ *eyes*, he said,
“Put your *finger* here in the *wounds* of my *hands*. Here –
put your *hand* into my wounded *side* and *see* for yourself.
Thomas, don’t *give in* to your *doubts* and longer, *just believe!*”
Then the *words* spilled out of his *heart* –
“You are my *Lord*, and you are my *God!*”

John 20: 26-28 TPT

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*Jesus responded,
"Thomas, **now** that you've **seen** me, you **believe**.
But there are **those** (like all of us)
who have **never seen** me with their **eyes**
but have **believed** me with their **hearts**,
and they are **blessed** even more!"*

John 20: 29 TPT

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*Jesus performed **many** other **signs**
in the **presence** of his **disciples**,
which are **not recorded** in this book (document).
But **these** (signs) are written (documented)
that (purpose) **you** may **believe**
that Jesus is the **Messiah**, the **Son** of God,
and that **by believing** (fully trusting in)
you may have **life** (eternal) in his **name** (Jesus).*

John 20: 30-31 NIV

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*“And I ask (pray) not only for these disciples,
but also for those (you and I) who will one day
believe in me through their message.*

*I pray for them all to be joined together as one
even as you and I, Father,
are joined together as one.*

*I pray for them to become one with (in) us
so that the world (all people) will (believe) recognize
that you (Father God) sent me.”*

John 17: 20-21 TPT

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