

**Easter Sunday  
2021**

If the Church started with Christians scattered that first Easter,  
the Church isn't going to STOP with Christians scattered this Easter!

*Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message. **John 20:18***

*That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and in his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." **John 20:19-21***

*One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side." Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. **John 20:24-26***

**SCATTERED NOT SHATTERED**

**IN YOUR TIME OF NEED AND IN YOUR PLACE OF NEED, JESUS IS CLOSE. LOOK FOR SIGNS OF HIS PRESENCE WITH YOU.**

*For God has said,  
"I will never fail you.  
I will never abandon you."  
Hebrews 13:5*

**JESUS TOOK THE WORST AND HARDEST AND EMERGED VICTORIOUS. CHOOSE TO DO THE SAME THROUGH HIS LOVE AND POWER.**

*Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. **John 20:27-28***

- **Scars tell the story of things you have survived.**
- **My scars give glory to Jesus who brought me through.**

*We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We're perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:8-10*

**JESUS GAVE HOPE TO BELIEVERS AND UNDERSTANDING TO DOUBTERS - WE EACH MUST DECIDE WHEN WE WILL BELIEVE.**

*Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" John 20:28*

Jesus challenged to deeper faith, but He  
accepted Thomas where he was ... and He accepts you where you are.

*Jesus told him, 'You believe because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing Me. John 20:29*

*The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name. John 20:30-31*

**Bottom Line:**

The resurrection is proof -- for every person who needs proof -- of the identity of Jesus as both Lord and God. And by believing, we find true life and eternal life in His name!

**Next Step:**

Before bed tonight, read again the faith journey of Thomas, from unbelief to belief. And exclaim with Thomas about Jesus: My Lord and my God!