

John 20:23-31

23. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.

- **John 8:24** "Therefore I said to you that you will _____ in your _____; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will _____ in your _____."
- **Mark 16:15-16** "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who _____ and is baptized will be _____; but he who does _____ believe will be _____.'"

Definition: "If you FORGIVE the sins of any, they are FORGIVEN them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" - What Jesus is saying here is that as His disciples, we are God's representatives on earth. When we give out **the message of salvation through Jesus Christ**, we can assuredly say to someone who has received Jesus as their Savior, "**Your sins are forgiven.**" We can just as emphatically say to someone who rejects Christ, "You are still in your sins" just as Jesus Himself said to the Pharisees. We need to speak the truth in love, but we don't have to be wishy-washy. **Jesus is the ONLY way for salvation and forgiveness of sins.**

- **Ephesians 1:7** "In Him we have _____ through His _____, the _____ of _____, according to the riches of His grace."
- **I Peter 2:24** "Who Himself bore our _____ in His own _____ on the tree (cross), that we, having died to _____, might live for _____ - by whose stripes (wounds) you were healed."
- **I John 3:5** "And you know that He (Christ) was manifested to _____ our _____, and in Him there is no _____."

Definition: "You will DIE IN YOUR SINS" - If you do NOT take advantage of the FORGIVENESS through faith in JESUS, you must PAY for your own sins, which means you will end up in hell. If you do not believe in **the death of Jesus on the cross (the BLOOD of Jesus)** to cleanse you from all your sins, then you have NO WAY to be cleansed or forgiven, and **you will go to your DEATH still in your filthy, SINFUL CONDITION.** Hebrews 10:26 says "there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins" for anyone who REJECTS the SACRIFICE of JESUS on the CROSS! The Jewish leaders of Jesus' day would NOT be able to go to the temple and perform animal sacrifices anymore (not that would be accepted by God, anyway), because the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were only "a picture" and a temporary "covering" of sin UNTIL **MESSIAH CAME to TAKE OUR SINS AWAY.**

- **Hebrews 10:29** "Of how much worse _____, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the _____ of _____ underfoot (treated Christ without respect), counted the _____ of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing (unholy), and _____ the _____ of grace?"

24-27. But **Thomas, called Didymus**, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands **the PRINT of the NAILS**, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and **put my HAND into His SIDE, I will not believe.**" And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, 'Peace to you!' Then He said to Thomas, '**Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side.** Do not be unbelieving, but believing.'

- **John 11:16** "Then _____, who is _____ Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may _____ with Him."
- **Luke 6:13-16** "And when it was day, He called His _____ to Him; and from them He _____ twelve whom He also named _____: Simon, whom He also named _____, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and _____; Matthew and _____; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor."

Definition: "Thomas, who is called Didymus" - Didymus means "twin." Thomas was evidently one of a pair of twins. We also see a glimpse into Thomas' temperament type from these Scriptures. He seems to be **a pessimist, worrier or negative thinker**, because he said, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." He was loyal, in that he was willing to die for Jesus, but **he only saw the negative side of the situation** by thinking that Jesus would die at that time. He has been given the name of "Doubting Thomas" because he did not immediately believe in Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

- **John 20:20** "Now when He had said this, He _____ them His _____ and His _____. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord."
- **John 19:34** "But one of the soldiers _____ His _____ with a _____, and immediately blood and water came out."

Definition: "The PRINT of the NAILS.....put my HAND into His SIDE" - I thought Jesus' resurrection body was perfect, without any defects or blemishes, so **why does He still carry the SCARS of His crucifixion?** The reason is because His scars are like trophies, they are scars of remembrance, in order that **we remember for all eternity the sacrifice He made for us.** All other scars, defects, imperfections and blemishes will be gone from our resurrection bodies when we get them, but Jesus will always keep these particular scars as a memorial of His great sacrifice. Revelation 5:6 tells us that even in heaven, Jesus still carries the scars and appears as "a Lamb as though it had been slain."

- **Luke 24:37-40** "But they were terrified and _____, and supposed they had seen a _____. And He said to them, 'Why are you troubled? And why do _____ arise in your hearts? Behold My _____ and My _____, that it is I Myself. _____ Me and see, for a _____ does not have _____ and _____ as you see I have.' When He had said this, He showed them His _____ and His _____."
- **Psalms 22:16** "For dogs have surrounded Me; the assembly of the wicked has enclosed Me. They _____ My _____ and My _____."
- **Zechariah 12:10** "And I will pour out on the house of David (Israel), and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the _____ of _____ and supplications; and they shall _____ upon _____ whom they have _____, and they shall mourn for Him "
- **Revelation 1:7** "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will _____ Him, and they also who _____ Him. And all the tribes of the earth will _____ because of Him."

28-29. And Thomas answered and said to Him, "**My LORD and My GOD!**" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, **because you have SEEN Me, you have BELIEVED.** Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- **I Peter 1:8** "Whom having not _____ you _____. Though now you do not _____ Him, yet _____, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory."
- **Hebrews 11:1** "Now _____ is the substance of things hoped for, the _____ of things not _____."

Definition: "My LORD and My GOD!" - Thomas recognized that Jesus had to be indeed **God in the flesh** in order to be standing in front of him, alive. Notice how Jesus does NOT tell Thomas that he shouldn't call Him God. Some of the cults refuse to recognize that Jesus is God in the flesh, and try to say that Jesus never claimed to be God. However, we see Jesus receiving worship from people in many places in the New Testament, He makes claims for Himself that could only belong to God, and here He allows Thomas to worship Him by calling Him Lord and God. If Jesus were merely a created being, a "good man" or a prophet, He would be committing blasphemy to allow someone to worship Him and call Him God.

- **John 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the _____ was _____."

Definition: "Because you have SEEN Me, you have BELIEVED" - True faith is to believe without having to see or feel something. Hebrews 11:1 says, that "faith is the substance (assurance) of things hoped for, the evidence (strong conviction) of **things not seen**." In other words, it doesn't take any faith to believe in something if it is staring you right in the face.

- **II Corinthians 5:7** "For we walk by _____, not by _____."

30-31. And truly **Jesus did many other SIGNS** in the presence of His disciples, **which are not written in this book**; but these are written **that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**, and that believing you may have life in His name."

- **Matthew 9:35** "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, _____ in their synagogues, _____ the _____ of the kingdom, and _____ every _____ and every disease among the people."

Definition: "Jesus did many other SIGNS.....which are NOT WRITTEN in this BOOK" - As we have already mentioned, each Gospel writer includes the details and stories of what Jesus did according to their desire and plan of what kind of account they would be writing. Matthew, for instance, was writing to a mostly Jewish audience, so he put different details in his gospel that would be understood by Jewish people reading it. Mark was writing to a mostly Roman audience. Luke was a medical doctor (physician), and certain details interested him more than others. **John says he was writing solely for the purpose "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."** He admits that Jesus did many other miracles (signs), but he just did not include them in his account. John includes fewer of the deeds and much **more of the WORDS of Jesus**, because he presents Jesus as "the Word of God."

- **John 2:11** "This _____ of _____ Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested (SHOWED) His _____; and His disciples believed in Him."
- **John 4:54** "This again is the _____ sign (miracle) that Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee."

Definition: "BEGINNING of SIGNS" - John tells us here that these are the first miracles Jesus has done at the beginning of His ministry. A **"sign"** in this context means **a miracle that Jesus did to SHOW the people that He was truly the Messiah** who had been prophesied and expected from God. Just as a street sign

SHOWS us the way to go, these miracles and "signs" were to SHOW that Jesus was the Messiah, and even more specifically, these miracles were **for the PURPOSE of SHOWING that Jesus is God!** Some of the other miracles that Jesus did, He just did because He had compassion on the people who were hurting, but a **SIGN** was done with the specific purpose of **POINTING** people **to JESUS and WHO He is.**

- **Mark 1:40-41** "Then a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, 'If You are _____, You can make me clean (well).' And Jesus, moved with _____, put out His hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I am _____, be cleansed.'"
- **Mark 2:9-11** "Which is easier to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may _____ that the Son of Man has _____ on _____ to _____ sins - He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go your way to your house.'"