



# House to House

## **Hope Through Locked Doors**

John 20:24-28

04.19.2020

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### **John 20:24-28**

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

## **John 20:25**

We have seen the Lord!...“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

“Despair is the death of our sense of surprise, the belief that nothing new can happen to us. We despair at the precise moment when, consciously or unconsciously, we say in resignation: ‘That is the way I am, that is the way things have always been for me, and that is the way it will always be. For me, it’s too late!’ Once this has been said, we are in a tomb. Much of us is dead, and more of us is still dying.”

- Ronald Rolheiser, *Prayer: Our Deepest Longing*

Doubt is that thin space between *reality* and *hope*.

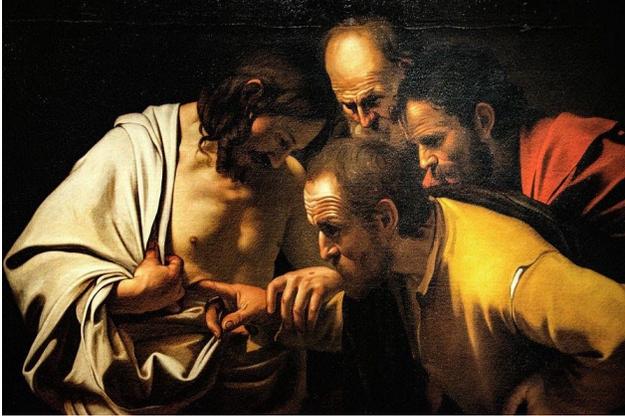
“I will not believe.”

- Thomas, John 20:25

## **John 20:26-27**

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Hope comes through locked doors.



“Stop doubting and believe.”

Hope is a vision of life that guides itself by faith in God’s promise, irrespective of whether the situation looks optimistic or pessimistic at any given time.

“If we blow up the world by nuclear bombs, that will set things back some millions of years, but eventually what Christ promised will come about, not because I wish it, but because God has promised it and, in the resurrection, God has shown that God is powerful enough to deliver on that promise.”

- Teilhard de Chardin

Henri Nouwen was once asked: “Are you an optimist?”

His reply: “No, not naturally, but that isn’t important. I live in hope, not optimism.”

“The need for absolute, unwavering faith that you can prevail with the discipline to begin by confronting the brutal facts, whatever they are.”

- Vice Admiral James Stockdale