

KINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH ONLINE NOTICE BOARD - 8

Please visit our website for the KBC spoken word Thought for the Day

<https://www.kingtonbaptistchurch.org/>

One Week Later ... John 20.24-29

After his first appearance to the disciples, who had gathered in the upper room, Jesus came to them a second time, one week later.

The disciples were in 'lockdown'.

They were *together*. They'd been scattered on the night when Jesus was arrested. They fled from him and were separated from each other. No wonder Jesus called it 'the hour of the power of darkness' (Luke 22.53). Darkness that engulfed Jesus and threw its cloak of distress over the disciples. We are also told the disciples were hiding.

The disciples were afraid.

The disciples hid in the upper room for *fear*. It's striking that they were still afraid after Jesus a week before spoke words of peace to them. This may be striking but it's inline how slow we are told the disciples were to believe and understand the words of Jesus (Luke 24.25).

Thomas was in denial.

Thomas was not present when Jesus first appeared to the disciples. And just as the disciples were slow to believe the word of Jesus, Thomas refused to accept the witness of the apostles who had seen Jesus. Thomas wouldn't believe what he couldn't see.

Jesus came to the disciples.

Jesus came to the disciples as the One who had been crucified. His hands and feet and side showed the wounds of the cross. As he stands now in heaven as our advocate he still bears those wounds – as the hymn says, 'in beauty glorified'.

Jesus stood among the disciples as the One who has overcome. He comes to them as the One who has risen from the dead; who had been in the darkness of death but One whom the darkness could not overcome!

Jesus stood among the disciples as the One who understands. He knew their fear, their doubts, bewilderment and confusion. He knew what Thomas thought and struggled with.

Jesus stood among the disciples as the One who comforts. His words are words of peace and reassurance. His words speak of the blessing that is real for those of us who, by the grace of God, 'believe though we have not seen'.

May we together know that Jesus is in the midst as the One who has died and risen for us; who *understands* us; who *comforts* and *reassures* us. That the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it!

Gifts and Offerings

For those who wanted to contribute gifts and offerings for God's work through KBC – these are the church banking details through which a bank transfer may be made. Thank you.

Kington Baptist Church
Account number: 01117998
Sort Code: 40 28 13