

## TESTIFY TO LOVE ~ Episode One ~ John 20: 19-31<sup>i</sup>

### Cast:

**Bailiff** *Small part for someone willing to have some fun but not a big public speaker*

**Lawyer** *A “just the facts” kind of person who eventually discovers that there is more to life than simply what can be quantified*

**Thomas** *Not such a doubter anymore*

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BAILIFF: All rise! Court is now in session. Please place your hand on the Bible. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

THOMAS: I do.

LAWYER: Okay, Thomas. There are a lot of us around here who are wondering how exactly we can be sure that Jesus rose from the dead. You’ve got a reputation for being a clear-thinking man, so we’d like you to tell us exactly what you saw. Just the facts, please.

THOMAS: Well, I saw Jesus die on the cross and I am 100 percent certain that he was dead by the end of the day. I saw the tomb where they laid his body. There was a huge stone blocking the entrance to the tomb and guards stationed there. No one was going to be sneaking over there and taking his body out.

LAWYER: Excellent. Now go on about the resurrection.

THOMAS: Well, it happened a few days later. But I didn’t actually see it with my own eyes.

LAWYER: What?! Then how can you be so sure it happened?

THOMAS: Actually, that was my attitude too. My friends were out of their minds with excitement about what they’d seen, but I wasn’t going to be taken for a ride. I told them I wouldn’t believe Jesus had risen from the dead until I saw him with my own eyes, and what’s more, until I touched his wounds with my own hands.

LAWYER (*to congregation*): Ah, a man after my own heart!

(*to Thomas*): So, that’s what you did, right? You held out until you had direct physical evidence?

THOMAS: Well yes . . . but then again, no . . . I mean, sort of.

LAWYER: Speak up, man! Did you or did you not touch the resurrected body of Jesus?

THOMAS: Uh, I forget . . .

LAWYER: ***You forget???*** Have you lost your mind???

THOMAS: No, I haven’t lost my mind, but my thinking has changed. Let me explain: A week later, Jesus did come and show himself to us again. We were all together in a room, the door was locked, and yet suddenly we could see him standing there among us. He spoke directly to me! He held out his hands and offered to let me touch them.

LAWYER: And you did, right?

THOMAS: No, I actually fell on the floor.

LAWYER: *Jesus tripped you???*

THOMAS: No, I was just overcome with awe, I... I... I... can't explain it. When I saw him there, I forgot all about my questions and my doubts. My heart was on fire. I felt like it wasn't just him who was resurrected - I felt like it was me, too! I was born that day... I became a new man ...

LAWYER: Please! Get a hold of yourself! I need you to focus here. Now you say the door was locked. Who had the key besides you? Were you on the first floor? Were there any open windows in the room where someone could gain access? And what exactly did Jesus look like? Was he solid, or was he kind of see-through ...

THOMAS (*interrupting*): You don't get it, do you? That's not the kind of evidence you really need. Jesus is alive - not just in that room, not just to his disciples. He's alive in our hearts, and he's afoot in the world. God's resurrecting power is everywhere! I don't know how it happened but all I can say is I'm changed because of him!

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<sup>1</sup> *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*, M.C. Tirabassi & M. I Tirabassi, eds.; The Pilgrim Press, 2007; p. 91-93.