



## PART 8

### OPEN IN PRAYER

#### MAIN SCRIPTURES *(read when prompted)*

John 11:1-16

John 20:1-2,22-24

John 20:25-28

### LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

- **Read John 11:1-16.** The wisdom of God is found in His methodology. Jesus waited 3 days to see Lazarus because He already had a plan set in place. God uses less than desirable situations and uses it to show His glory. Your problem gives way to God coming in to have His greatest opportunity. Jesus waited to see Lazarus so the others could see a miracle. God will show restraint to let someone's faith have a chance to grow. There will be things you have to wait on to grow and your faith will have to fight. God can handle you not knowing what He is doing. Sometimes God doesn't want to be figured out because He wants you to mature and grow. God will let something temporary happen around you that will cause something eternal to happen in you. ***Was there something you wanted to happen but needed to wait a little longer? Did you see yourself grow in the waiting process?***
- **Read John 20:1-2, 22-24.** Thomas loved Jesus so much but was so devastated when he died. So devastated that he missed out on Jesus' first appearance to the disciples. He had built walls to make sure he didn't experience that pain again. His hurt took him out of the position to receive. ***Do you usually put up walls when you get hurt? What is your usual response when you are hurt?***

- **Read John 20:25-28.** We have to ask the question “*Now What?*” when life throws us something distasteful. Thomas allowed the pain he was feeling to take him out of position to receive the one thing he wanted: to be filled with the spirit that was on Jesus. It is all right to have pain but it’s not all right for the pain to have you. It’s all right to have anger, but it’s not all right for the anger to have you. Thomas was in so much pain that he almost allowed it to take over. We can make it through these storms as long as these storms don’t get in you. ***Have you allowed anger and pain take over during this time of societal unrest? What would be a believer’s response to what is going on in the world at the moment?***
- In Acts 28, Paul was shipwrecked on an island and was bit by a viper. The natives thought he would die because of it but nothing happened. You can’t always stop the serpent from biting you but you can keep the venom from killing you. Life will disappoint you, but you can keep that disappointment from destroying you. How you decide to confront evil will determine your future. ***What is your response in the face of evil? Have you ever allowed the venom to get in you? How do you get the venom out?***

### **PRAYER FOCUS**

This week let’s put our focus on those that have allowed the pain, anger and venom take them over. Let’s pray for the people that need the love of Christ to take over and peace to overwhelm them. Our focus should be on healing this nation for the Lord.