

The Witnesses

▪ What We Found

With our own pencil and Galatians 1, we dated the tradition of 1 Corinthians 15:3-7 to within a few years of the crucifixion at most, with Paul's Jerusalem visit to the named witnesses its most natural occasion; scholars across the spectrum agree on the early date. The appearance reports are various in every way hallucinations are uniform: groups up to five hundred, meals, touch, weeks of encounters, preserved doubt ("some doubted"; Thomas). And the era's own expectation (Daniel 12:2; Martha in John 11:24) had no category for one man rising mid-history: grief visions cannot supply a category that does not exist, and they cannot empty a tomb.

▪ Voices of the Church

St. Gregory the Great • *Homilies on the Gospels* 26

The disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the belief of the others: he touched, and healed our doubt in advance. (Summary.)

St. Augustine • *Tractates on John* 121

Thomas saw and touched the man, and confessed the God he neither saw nor touched. (Summary.)

St. Leo the Great • *Sermon* 71

The forty days of eating and touching were for us: the reality of the risen flesh fixed beyond doubt. (Summary.)

▪ Live It This Week

- Re-read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and Galatians 1:11-24 until the timeline arithmetic is yours.
- Ask someone how they would tell a vivid dream from reality; note the tests they name.

▪ Scripture Memory Verse

See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.

Luke 24:39 (RSV2CE)

▪ Before Next Session

Before Session 5: read Galatians 1:13-24.

Catechism connections for this session: CCC 641, 642-643, 644.