



# Appearing to Thomas

John 20:24-31

Mumsy searched for a new needle in her sewing basket. She had been sewing for ten hours and her sewing machine needle had finally broken from the strain. After retrieving a shiny new one from her basket, she adjusted her glasses, and leaned over the machine to carefully settle the new needle into place. Finally satisfied it was secure, she sat up straight and rubbed the back of her neck. She was beginning to feel quite sore. "Oh well," she said out loud to herself. "At least I am getting these Bonzai Family Rescue Patrol uniforms finished."

Just as she picked up a sleeve and began to set it with pins to the rest of the shirt, she heard the front door of the beach shack squeak open and then slam shut with a loud bang. Wyoming ran into the room in his usual rushed manner. "Hello Mumsy!" he greeted, panting to catch his breath. This young man never seemed to slow down.

"Hello Wyoming," she quickly looked up and returned his greeting with a smile. "I haven't seen you all day. You must've been busy."

Wyoming leaned against the doorpost and said excitedly between gasps for air, "I have walked every inch of this island and I think I found a place to build the helicopter pad."

"That's wonderful!" Mumsy exclaimed.

"Helicopters have to take off and land from a high location so that you can see over the trees. So, I chose a location on the cliffs on the north side of the island," he explained.

"Those cliffs are the highest point on the entire island. That's a perfect spot," Mumsy agreed, picturing the location in her mind.

"Almost perfect, there's just one little problem." The newest ranger removed his big cowboy hat and used his sleeve to wipe the sweat from his forehead. "That cliff is covered with hundreds of trees. Even if we all pitch in, it'll take us weeks to clear all those trees."

"Well, Popsy was hoping to have the business ready to take off by next weekend so that we can go to Chief Howzyermomanem's coronation," Mumsy stated, very matter-of-factly.

Wyoming shook his head. "That'll never happen! It's impossible!"

Mumsy smiled her knowing smile. "Now, now dear, nothing is impossible with God! I'll just call Popsy and tell him to get over there and begin clearing."

"Well, you can call him but I doubt he'll be able to do it. This job needs a bulldozer and a backhoe and we don't have any heavy machinery," he warned as he sat down in the old, ragged, beach chair next to the door.

**Mumsy picked up her two-way radio. "That's true, but we never know what the God of Wonders will do. I'll call Popsy." She pushed the call button on the side of the radio and paged Popsy. "Mumsy calling Popsy! Come in, Popsy! Do you read me? Over!"**

**The sound of static filled the air for a minute before Popsy's voice crackled over the radio. "Popsy here! Over."**

**Mumsy pushed the "talk" button again and said, "Wyoming has staked out a spot for the helicopter pad on the north cliffs. Can you head over there and start clearing trees? Over."**

**"Aye, I'm on the way! Over and out," Popsy quickly replied.**

**Mumsy put down the radio and picked up her sewing again; feeling assured that the matter had been taken care of. "Never fear, dear. Popsy is on the way! That cliff will be cleared in no time."**

**Wyoming stayed in his chair, just shaking his head. "Mumsy, I'd have to see it to believe it."**

**Mumsy looked up from inserting a pin through the sleeve. "That's just what Thomas said!" She said.**

**Wyoming had a puzzled look on his face. "Thomas? Who's Thomas?"**

**"Thomas was one of the disciples of Jesus! He also had doubts...at first." "He did? What were his doubts about?"**

**Mumsy reached into her sewing basket and pulled out her Bible. "Let me show you. In this story, Jesus appeared to His disciples after He had risen from the dead. It was a miracle!"**

**"A miracle! Wow! They must have been amazed to see Jesus alive again!" Wyoming said enthusiastically.**

**"They were...well, all except Thomas," she replied.**

**Wyoming was confused. "Wasn't Thomas excited to see Jesus alive again?"**

**"Actually, Thomas wasn't there that day," Mumsy explained. "But the other disciples ran and told him, 'We have seen the Lord!'"**

**"And then was Thomas excited?" Wyoming guessed.**

**"Well, not exactly. We must remember that Thomas had watched Jesus die on the cross. He had not yet seen Jesus alive as the others had. Thomas told 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 it.'"**

**Wyoming nodded with understanding. "Wow, I know just how he felt! Sometimes, I just have to see the proof for myself."**

**"Well dear, some of us just need more information to help us believe," Mumsy assured him and then continued with the story. "So one week later, Jesus appeared and give Thomas what he needed to believe. He walked through a locked door and into the house where Thomas and all the disciples were meeting."**

**"Did Jesus come to help Thomas believe?" Wyoming asked.**

**"Yes," Mumsy replied. "Jesus told Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.' Then Thomas said, 'My Lord and my God!' What do think you would have said, Wyoming?"**

**Wyoming thought for a moment. "Probably the same thing. It would have been so amazing to see Jesus with my own eyes. What did Jesus say to Thomas?"**

**Mumsy smiled. She knew how important these next few words were for all Christians who have lived since Jesus returned to His throne in heaven. "Jesus said, 'because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'"**

**A big grin spread across Wyoming's face. "Wow! That blessing is for me! I haven't seen Jesus, but I do believe in Him."**

**"Me too!" Mumsy agreed. "The faith Jesus gives us is quite a blessing!"**

**"So, Jesus wasn't upset with Thomas for having doubts, was He?" Wyoming asked.**

**"Oh, not at all," she assured him. "Jesus wanted to help Thomas believe. You might say Jesus came to 'rescue' Thomas from his doubts!"**

**Just then, the two-way radio crackled to life and Popsy's voice called out, "Popsy calling Mumsy! Come in, dear."**

**Mumsy reached over her sewing and picked up the radio. She pushed the "talk" button and replied, "Oh, hello Popsy! Have you found the spot on the cliffs? Over." "Aye! Tell Wyoming we cleared all the trees. Over," Popsy replied.**

**Wyoming reached for the radio and Mumsy handed it to him. "What?!" he exclaimed. "You cleared the trees that quickly?! I don't believe it!"**

**"Well, believe it!" Popsy's voice answered. "800-Pound Gorilla and I had a contest to see who could knock down the most trees. I'm afraid he beat me this time. And Gorilla just told me we've got enough wood here to build a landing pad. So, we're going to get started! Over and out! Pass me that hammer!"**

**Wyoming put the radio down on the side table next to his chair and slapped his knees in a show of amazement. "That's incredible!"**

**Mumsy's smile grew even wider as she saw Wyoming truly understood that nothing is impossible with God. She said, "Well, there's a lesson for us all! When in doubt, always remember the Bonzai motto: 'It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!'"**

**"Thanks Mumsy for helping me understand this wonderful truth about Jesus! I think I'm going to head back to the cliff and help Popsy and Gorilla build the landing pad." Wyoming said as he headed for the door.**

**Mumsy reached for the sleeve she had been sewing when Wyoming had first arrived and straightened one of the pins. "Good idea! I need to get back to work on these uniforms." She replied. As the front door slammed and Wyoming began running towards the cliff, the whirr of Mumsy's sewing machine filled the air.**