

# Short Talk

(SHT092)

## Seeing is Believing!

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ALL AGE WORSHIP  
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## SHORT TALK: “Seeing is Believing!”

<b>Aim of Short talk:</b>	To teach that sometimes we find it really hard to believe things that we haven't seen; however we are blessed if we believe that Jesus is alive today.
<b>Use of Short talk:</b>	This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
<b>Main themes:</b>	Jesus, Easter, Resurrection, Belief, Doubt
<b>Biblical references:</b>	John 20:19-31
<b>Lectionary:</b>	Year B – The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter
<b>Props:</b>	You will need a baked bean tin “safe.” <sup>1</sup> Remove the end of the tin and put two £10 notes inside it then reseal.

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Sometimes our friends might tell us things that we find really hard to believe.

- For instance one friend might tell us that they swam with sharks on holiday.
- We would probably want to see the photographs wouldn't we before we believed them?

Or another friend might tell us that they have just received an invitation from Tom Cruise to join him for a week on his yacht in the Mediterranean.

- Again we would probably want to see the invitation that they have received from Tom Cruise wouldn't we,
- because seeing is believing?

How about if I told you today that inside this ordinary tin of baked beans there are hidden two ten pound notes.

- Would you believe me?
- It's hard to believe isn't it?

It is a lot easier to believe that this tin is filled with baked beans isn't it,

- as there is even a picture of baked beans on the outside of the tin?
- It is also what we are expecting to find....

But I am telling you that even though it is hard to believe, I have seen inside this tin and there are no baked beans inside.....but there are two ten pound notes.

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<sup>1</sup> You can purchase a baked bean tin safe from Amazon at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) by putting “Baked bean tin safe” into the search bar

Shall we see if I am telling you the truth?

- Let's open up this tin and see what is inside (*Open up tin and pull out two £10 notes*)

Oh wow.....that is extraordinary isn't it?

- There are no baked beans inside this tin but there are two ten pound notes.
- We would not have expected that would we?
- I doubt any of us have ever opened up a tin of baked beans before and found two ten pound notes inside the tin.

Believing things that we haven't seen is especially hard when they are totally unexpected.

- It was like that for Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples.

He wasn't with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared to them in his resurrection body, three days after his death on the cross.

- The other disciples told Thomas all about seeing Jesus, but Thomas didn't believe them.

It was such an odd and unexpected thing to be told that Thomas said that unless he saw Jesus for himself he wouldn't believe it.....

Do you ever struggle to believe that Jesus rose again from the dead and is alive today?

We have the same eye witness testimony that Thomas had,

- but we have it written down for us in the Gospels.

We can look at the evidence and weigh it up,

- but if you ever struggle to believe, listen to Jesus' words of encouragement:
- *"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* (John 20:29)

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

- We are blessed if we choose to believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today, even though we haven't seen Jesus in the flesh....
- so can I encourage you to hold onto your faith in Jesus.

It really is true.....

- Even though you cannot see Him with your eyes, Jesus is alive today!