

Reconnecting with the Resurrected Christ – Dealing with Doubt

John 20:19-31

Thomas would rather admit his doubt than live a lie. –As should we.

📖 John 20:19–25 (NIV) “On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”²⁰ After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”²² And with that He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”²⁴ Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to 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.”

1. Why did Thomas doubt the testimony of others? (Why do we?)

2. Why did Thomas doubt the promises of Jesus? (Why do we?)

Thomas’ legacy embodies more than his last mistake. –As does ours.

📖 John 11:7–8, 11-16 (NIV) “...He said to His disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”⁸ “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?”¹¹ ...He went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”¹² His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.”¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but His disciples thought He meant natural sleep.¹⁴ So then He told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead,¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”¹⁶ Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”

📖 John 14:1–6 (NIV) “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.² In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Thomas didn’t avoid other believers when he struggled to believe. –Nor should we.

📖 John 20:26 (NIV) “A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

📖 Hebrews 10:24–25 (NIV) “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Thomas mattered as much to Jesus as any of the others. –As do we.

📖 John 20:26–29 (NIV) “A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”²⁸ Thomas said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

📖 John 20:30–31 (NIV) “Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book.³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

Digging Deeper How do you deal with doubt? Have you shared your doubt with others? Are you honest about your doubts?

 If you were to be forever known by the last mistake that you made, what would that be? –Would that be fair assessment of who you are? Do you believe that Jesus cares enough about you personally that He would come to you individually? Where will you spend eternity? Do you know for sure? If so, how do you know?