



John 20:24-31
My Lord and My God

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

[While I will read verses 30 and 31 today, I won't touch on them much today, instead I'll be preaching on them by themselves next week]

Thomas, we call him "doubting Thomas" don't we, but it's not like Thomas was the only person in history who ever doubted the resurrection. When the women who had gone to the tomb early on that Sunday morning reported back to the disciples that Jesus had risen, their first inclination was not to believe them, **Luke 24:11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.**

No one naturally believes, if we are going to believe, Christ has to reveal Himself to us. If we do believe it is because God has caused us to do so.

Thomas had not been there when Jesus appeared to the other disciples in the midst of the locked room. In the face of the crucifixion his hopes had collapsed and he had gone off to be by Himself. The Other disciples had gone to him and told him what had happened, but his irreverent answer implied "*I have no intention of believing your stories.*" Clearly he didn't ever expect to be in a position to apply the nail print test that he suggested.

But even though he refused to believe it, when they were gathered together again the following Sunday, Thomas was there with them.

Jesus invites Thomas to do exactly what he had said he must in order to believe, but it is unnecessary, in that moment Thomas' eyes are finally opened to who Jesus is. He knows he is not merely the Messiah, but God, the Son, and Thomas worships Him as such – *MY LORD AND MY GOD*.

Now, in the Bible, only God is worthy of being worshipped, he will not share His worship with any other. This is after all is the first commandment, “you shall have no other Gods before me” And in a the midst of a world demanding the acceptance of many Gods many ways of salvation, Yahweh declared in *Isaiah 45:22 "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.*

Because of this every created servant of God, refuses worship. So we read that the Apostles refused worship: **Acts 10:25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.**

26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man." Even Angels refused worship: **Rev. 22:8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.**

9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

But Christ does not say, “No, no, Thomas, I’m just a wise man, as so many today believe, and neither does he say, no, no, I’m just the Archangel Michael a created servant of God as, for instance, the Jehovah’s witnesses maintain. Instead Jesus receives that worship, and please understand, if He had not been God, to allow someone to worship him as GOD would not be good. In fact it would have brought the judgment of God down upon Him: In Acts 12:23 when Herod allowed the crowd to worship him we read this happened:

Acts 12:22 And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!"

23 Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.”

Instead he accepts the worship of Thomas because Jesus is Lord and God, and therefore He alone is worthy to receive it.

Then Jesus delivers a mild rebuke regarding Thomas's lack of faith, ***"Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*** Here Jesus is clearly implying that He should have believed the testimony of the other Apostles. And here He is pointing forward to those who would read the testimony of the Apostles and believe the Gospel. That after all is why these things were written.

I wonder if you feel the weight of that declaration? Many Christians secretly harbor the feeling that the Apostles were far more blessed than they because they had the benefit of walking with Christ and seeing his miracles first hand, seeing him resurrected. And yet, Jesus doesn't say "blessed are you Thomas because unlike those less privileged people who will believe in me later on you will got to see me in the flesh here and now." Rather Jesus pronounces that YOU who believed in Him via the word are blessed. To you who walk by faith, not by sight comes Christ's special blessing.

But I know that on the other hand, in any group this size there are very likely some here today who DOUBT the resurrection. “the words seem to you like idle tales” I know very well, because I used to be in that category, my own long-suffering parents often brought me to church on Easter and I would sit there thumbing through the bulletin, reading about raffles, looking at everything, thumbing through the hymnal, then going home, the ritual completed. The box ticked. The parents hopefully mollified rather than mortified at my behavior. Now admittedly the ministers didn’t plead with me to believe, I doubt most of them believed themselves, but the scriptures were read. And these scriptures were written not to divert, or entertain, but **“that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”** But I wouldn’t believe, and so I spent the time diverting my attention with things that would never have interested me otherwise. In those moments, a hymnal, a dead fly, a bad toupee, were all more interesting to me than the greatest story ever told.

Why? Because the preacher wasn’t good enough? Because Jesus didn’t appear physically to me? Because there wasn’t enough evidence?

No, even when Christ did mighty miracles that alone didn’t cause men to believe. Men fail to see that Jesus is God no because of physical blindness but spiritual blindness. –

John 12:37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"

39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."

In order to believe then, the spiritual blindness has to be removed, the old hearts have to be changed, we have to be taught by the Father. We need in a word Regeneration, to be born again:

Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Faith in Christ is God’s gift it is not something we can exercise. It requires God’s Election and God’s Calling. He calls us to faith, and makes us willing to believe, and we do!

Acts 13:48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Not as many as believed were appointed to eternal life
But as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed

And that is precisely what Christ told the Pharisees, they would not believe in Him because they were not His Sheep:

John 6:36 "But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.

37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

39 "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

40 "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Some Applications:

To you who believe: I hope you see the importance of NOT absenting yourself from the gatherings of God's people.

And go recover your brothers and sisters who do absent themselves!

Also remember – Merely knowing that Jesus is God and that He was Resurrected never saved anyone. Remember the entire host of Hell knows both those things. As James said in James 2:19 You **believe** that there is one God. You do well. Even **the demons believe** -- and tremble!

Personal Faith is NECESSARY

My Lord and My God – both objective and personal. It is not enough that Jesus be both God and sovereign. He is both of those for Thomas personally.

You want to know if you have that personal faith? If I can make an analogy, it is one thing to know someone, and to know that they are a husband or a wife. But it is a very, very, different thing to know someone personally as YOUR husband or YOUR wife or if you are a child, there is a big difference between knowing someone is a father, and knowing your own father isn't there. You have a relationship of love and trust.

In the same way, you may know ABOUT Jesus but do you have that relationship of love and trust and obedience?

If not well then know that these things were written to rectify that sad state of affairs, they were written that **You** may believe. That Christ might have the same relationship with you as He did these Apostles.