

LESSONS FROM THOMAS - ANDILE DLAMINI

Usually when we hear the name “Thomas” we are instantly reminded of the label attached to it – “Doubting” Thomas. We even use it in our everyday language to attribute doubts that are had by someone – we say, “Why are you being such a doubting Thomas?”

This morning I’d like to set the record straight because I believe Thomas gets a very bad rap; all because of a text that comes out of John 20:27-29. There we find that Thomas has been doubting already, not believing any of the stories, rumours or testimonies about Jesus being risen from the dead. So he says that the only way he will believe is if he can see Jesus for himself and put his hand in His side.

A moment comes in John 20:26 (onwards) when Jesus appears before the disciples, goes right to Thomas and says, *“Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”* At that moment I’m sure Thomas believed in Jesus because the words out of his mouth were, *“My Lord and my God!”* and I’m sure he screamed or shouted it because there’s a big exclamation mark! He finally believes. But even to this day Thomas is still labelled as a doubter.

Maybe you have labels over your life.

Maybe similar to Thomas you’ve got the label of ‘Doubter’. Maybe you have doubts about your own faith or the situation you’re in now or whether you’re going to make it to the next month or the month after that.

Maybe you have the label of ‘You’re not good enough.’ Perhaps people have said that about you; a family member, father or mother; maybe you’ve said that over yourself and given yourself that label.

Maybe you have the label of 'You're useless.'

Whatever label you have, I want to encourage you from Thomas' life. This is what we learn...

A RADICAL REVELATION OF JESUS CAN OVERCOME ANY AND ALL OF OUR DOUBTS AND LABELS.

History records that Thomas went on to preach the Gospel in India and died as a martyr for his faith. He went from being labelled as a doubter to being a faithful follower of Jesus – even to the bitter end.

So whatever labels you may have, whatever doubts you may be carrying, they can be replaced by asking and calling on God for a greater, more radical revelation of Jesus.

Then you will be given the label that truly matters most. A label you can live your life from...

...A FAITHFUL FOLLOWER OF JESUS.

Be encouraged friends!