

WERE YOU THERE?

LIFEwork for the week starting March 17, 2017
“Were You There: Thomas”

This week’s message focused on the perspective of Thomas as a disciple of Jesus. As we follow Thomas’ story through the Gospels, we see a man full of confidence but sometimes struggling to find certainty. Share with one another a time or reason you really struggled to trust God’s truths and promises with certainty.

1. Read John 11:16. Thomas was pretty sure when they got close to Jerusalem in such a charged political/religious climate, it would be bad for their life expectancy. When he said what he said, do you think he was resigning himself to his likely fate, or was it a statement of trust and loyalty to Jesus? Why?
2. Read John 14:1-7. Why were the disciples troubled? (You might have to look back to the preceding verses.) What was Jesus’ comfort He offered? What do we learn about Thomas, that he asked the question he did?
3. Read John 20:19-31. Why do you think Thomas refused to believe 10 of his closest friends? What was his conclusion once he saw Jesus? There is no neutral territory on who Jesus is; what does it take to confirm that He is “Lord and God” for you?
4. What are the hardest truths from God’s Word for you to accept? Certain “unbelievable” miracle stories? Certain moral teachings that are counter-cultural? Or concepts like forgiveness and grace? Spend some time talking about the things that are hard to embrace, and why that is.
5. Once Thomas was certain, he carried the Gospel perhaps as far as India! Sometimes skeptics and realists become the best evangelists. How (and where) do you feel God’s tug to proclaim Jesus as Lord and God? Are there certain situations or relationships where He’s opening your eyes to opportunities?

Prayer: Pray for and with each other. Also that God the Holy Spirit would give you a “sure and certain” faith, and the strength to live it out.



Were You There: Thomas

John 14:1-7

March 17 2019 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

“Jesus said to Him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. NO ONE comes to the Father EXCEPT through Me.” -John 14:6

Jesus does not leave room for neutral ground. Either He is a blasphemer, liar and lunatic...or He is our LORD and GOD!

DOUBTING Thomas or Thomas the REALIST?

John the Baptizer & Thomas: The difference between CONFIDENCE and CERTAINTY when things get REAL.

The consistent story of the disciples is about FAITH and LIFE that fall SHORT, while certainty and faithfulness are found only in JESUS.

The pillars of certainty:

1. God does not LIE! (Romans 10:13; John 6:37; Acts 4:12; John 10:28-29)
2. I am BAPTIZED! (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21-22)
3. Jesus paid it ALL! (2 Cor. 5:21; Hebrews 2:14-15)

At some point, we are called to a point of decision: Am I able to BELIEVE even though I have not SEEN? What will it take (Luke 16:31)? And where will it take me?!

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