

I. The Resurrection Moves Us from _____ to Conviction

John 11:14-15 "Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.'"

John 11:16 "So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'"

II. The Resurrection Moves Us from _____ to Answers

John 14:3-4 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."

John 14:5 "Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?'"

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'"

A. The Way

B. The Truth

C. The Life

John 10:10b "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly"

III. The Resurrection Moves Us from _____ to Certainty

John 20:19a "On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews ..."

John 20:19b-20 "Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord."

John 20:21-23 "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'"

A. Don't _____ the Opportunity

John 20:24-25a "Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.'"

B. Listen to the Eye-Witness _____

John 20:25b "But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.'"

John 20:26 "Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them with you."

C. See How _____ the Lord is With Us

John 20:27 "Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.'"

D. Stop Doubting and _____

E. Leave Your _____ Behind

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

F. Renew Your _____

John 20:28 "Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'"

G. Receive the _____!

John 20:29 "Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'"

1 Peter 1:8-9 "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."



March 31, 2024

1. Familiarize Yourself With the Passage and the Gospel

- a. Matthew 10:3 (cf. Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15); John 11:16; 14:5; 20:24-28; 21:2
- b. Do a word study on "doubt," since Thomas is widely known as "doubting Thomas." Find all the passages that talk about doubt and see what God's word has to say about it. (Genesis 37:33; Deuteronomy 28:26; Job 12:2; Matthew 14:31; 21:21; 28:17; Mark 11:23; Luke 4:23; 24:38; Acts 28:4; Romans 14:23; James 1:6; Jude 22)

2. Introduction to the Passage (Feel free to use this as a reference guide as you discuss the passage)

Historical/Literary Context: ¹The name Thomas originates from an Aramaic name that means "twin", hence the clarification comment in John 11:16. John also uses the Greek form of the name "twin" with the word "Didymos" (John 20:24; 21:2). Thomas' twin is never clarified in the gospels. A 3rd century text called the Acts of Thomas claims he was the twin brother of Jesus, although this cannot be confirmed in any other reliable sources and is probably doubtful. The Acts of Thomas also contains questionable and contradictory theology compared to the New Testament. Because Thomas is mentioned in a few places in the New Testament, thanks to John the Apostle, we can have a few more definitive observations about Thomas.

While Thomas was most known as a doubter, for good reason, he also displays courage in the face of persecution (John 11:8, 16).² He had a genuine devotion to Christ, even though he lacked understanding that Jesus would rise from the dead as the other disciples thought also leading to his doubt later in the book. Thomas' life after the ascension of Jesus is scarce. Some believe he was a missionary in India according to later texts such as the Acts of Thomas, which corresponds to the history of the Syrian church. Others such as the 4th century church historian Eusebius say he was a missionary in Parthia following the tradition of the Egyptian church and the 3rd century theologian Origen. He was most likely martyred like the other disciples.

3. Questions About the Passage

- a. How would you describe Thomas' character and personality from the passages given? (John 11:16; 14:5; 20:24-28)
- b. How should we understand Thomas' comment in John 11:16?
- c. What do you make of the blessing Jesus offers to those who believe in him, but have never seen him (John 20:29)? How is this a blessing?
- d. How do you understand the change of Thomas from passionate martyr (John 11:16), to seeker (John 14:5), to doubter (John 20:25)? Does this speak to Thomas' emotions?

4. From the Passage to Life

- a. How do you see Thomas' devotion and love to Christ in these interactions? What does your devotion and love to Christ look like?
- b. How does Jesus' comment to Thomas comfort him regarding seeing without believing (John 20:26-29)?
- c. Like Thomas, we change in our character. Have you seen a good or bad transformation in your character within your Christian life?
- d. What doubts have plagued your walk with the Lord? What passages from Scripture can help you overcome your doubt?

¹ Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary.

² D.A. Carson, The Gospel of John, PNTC (Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, 1990), 410.