

The Next 40 Days – Week 4 – John 20:24-29 – Jesus Appears to Doubting Thomas

John 20:24-29: *Now Thomas (also known as 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.”

²⁶ *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.”*

INTRO to series “The Next 40 Days” – After He walked out of the grave on that first Easter Sunday, Jesus spent the next 40 days teaching and preparing His followers for what was coming next. As each day passed, the power of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church drew nearer. Though many were struggling with fear, failure, and doubts, Jesus cut through their confusion as light breaks into darkness. Jesus also gave some of His most important teaching during this time, including the “great commissions”—and then He ascended to heaven.

INTRO to **John 20:24-29:** Last week we came to the end of Easter Sunday, when the resurrected Christ appeared to the disciples in Jerusalem in the Upper Room. In our verses for today, we learn that one of the disciples, Thomas, was not present.

I. Thomas was the last of the eleven disciples to realize the Living Hope of Christ risen from the dead. (vs. 24-25)

-Though the other disciples gave Thomas their first-hand accounts of seeing Christ risen from the dead, Thomas did not yet believe it was true.

-Thomas issued an ultimatum on God and on his faith: *“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.”*

-Thomas speaks in other parts of the gospels (see **John 11:16** and **John 14** below)

II. Jesus appeared to Thomas and invited him to see and touch his wounds. (vs. 26-28)

-A week after that first Easter Sunday, moving further into the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to His disciples once again inside the locked doors of the Upper Room—and this time, Thomas was with them.

-vs. 27: Then Jesus said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

-Jesus’ wounds were more than the evidence that He had been crucified, they were the fulfillment of God’s promises to heal us from our sins and iniquities (see **Isaiah 53:4-6** below).

-Thomas makes one of the great confessions in the New Testament, calling Jesus both “My Lord!” and “My God!” (**vs. 28**)

III. Jesus says that all who trust upon Him in faith are to be called “blessed.” (vs. 29)

-Thomas’ sight became faith, He saw and believed. Disciples today are called to have faith that will someday become sight. Until that time, the Bible says, *For we live by faith, not by sight.* (**2 Corinthians 5:7**)

-Jesus’ final words to Thomas on this occasion (**vs. 29b**) have been compared to a **beatitude**: *blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*”

-Note on Thomas: The last time we see this disciple in the New Testament is in the Upper Room in **Acts 1**. Church history records, however, that Thomas took the Good News of Jesus’ sacrificial death and victorious resurrection all the way to **India** and perhaps even beyond. Even today, many churches in the state of Kerala, India, trace their roots back to the first century and Thomas’ mission work.

-Thomas believed and Thomas went—We are also called to believe and to go!

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Isaiah 53:4-6: *Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;*

*and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

John 11:16: *Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples,
“Let us also go, that we may die with him.”*

From John 14: *My Father’s house has many rooms... I am going there to prepare a
place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me 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.”*

Hebrews 11:1: *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what
we do not see.*

Other Quotes/Resources:

-From the poem “Jesus of the Scars” by Edward Shillito

*But to our wounds only God’s wounds can speak,
And not a god has wounds but Thou alone*

“[These stories of the disciples restored to faith] remind us that broken hearts can burn
again” -Winfield Bevins