

"My Lord and my God."

John 20:24-29

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

26 After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

/This is a tremendous account of a person coming to believe in Jesus Christ.\ His statement “My Lord and my God” is a beautiful and succinct declaration of who Jesus Christ is.

There is no explanation of why Thomas was not with them on the evening of the day Christ rose from the dead. John doesn’t cast any blame on Thomas because of it.

/When he returned, the other disciples kept on telling him that they had seen the Lord.\

Thomas was not convinced. / He wasn’t going to take their word for it. \ He was not going to believe it without seeing the resurrected Lord himself. He was adamant about it.

The Greek verb is a double negative: “I most certainly will not believe”.

/Thomas needed visual and physical evidence before he would believe.\

"Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

/Thomas must have heard -almost certainly by John- that a Roman soldier had pierced Jesus' side.\

John 19:32-37

So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; 33 but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. 36 For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN." 37 And again another Scripture says, "THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED."

NASU

Thomas has been labeled as the doubter. "Doubting Thomas".

/But Thomas was not the only disciple who didn't believe until they saw the resurrected Jesus.\

Luke 24:1-11

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; 5 and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? 6 "He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, 7 saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." 8 And they remembered His words, 9 and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. 11 But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them.

NASU

/The other ten didn't believe either..... \

/until Jesus showed them His hands and His side!\

John 20:19-20

So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

NASU

/The disciples came to believe in the resurrection only when confronted with clear are irrefutable evidence: evidence that their eyes could see and ears could hear and hands could touch.\

Let's return to John 20:26

26 After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

The first time Jesus came for the ten. The second time, He came for one disciple.

Each time, the doors were shut. But this gave Jesus the opportunity to show the miraculous nature of His resurrection body.

/He walked through walls to reach them.\

Both times he greeted them with the same words – “peace be with you”.

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

Wow. Jesus heard Thomas when he said “I will certainly not believe ..unless”.

/Well, Jesus provided what Thomas needed to believe. \

What a Savior we have! We don't deserve Him. He came from heaven – the Son of God! – to save us. He was born of a woman to save us. He endured insults and unbelief . He let Himself be crucified to save us. He rose from the dead to save us.

And He will do whatever it takes to save one of His sheep.

/He will leave the 99 to seek out and rescue the one.\

Matt 18:12-14

12 "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? 13 "If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. 14 "So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

NASU

/And then there is that moving encounter of Jesus and Zaccheus, a little man who climbed a tree to see Jesus:\

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. 3 Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. 4 So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6 And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. 7 When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." 8 Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

NASU

Jesus came back to seek and save Thomas. Jesus knew the painful struggle going on in Thomas' heart. "Help my unbelief". So Jesus helped Thomas. He gave him what he needed to believe.

He will go to great lengths to give a person whatever it takes to turn unbelief into belief.

John 20:28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

/My Lord and my God! Jesus did not contradict him. \

The one who most stubbornly expressed his unbelief, by the grace of the LORD Jesus and the love of the Father became the one who clearly and succinctly proclaimed his belief in Jesus as his Lord and his God.

29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

/John wrote his gospel for those who would not see the resurrected Christ.\ He recorded the sign miracles that revealed His deity. He recorded the words Jesus spoke about who He was. He provided them the proof that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, that Jesus died and was buried and was and that Jesus died and was

buried and was raised from the dead. /He gave sufficient proof for anyone to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. \

/Over the centuries, on the basis of the evidence that John presented in his gospel, millions have come to believe in Christ as God, their Savior, and their Lord. \

1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.