

Bible Study

June 22, 2022

Thomas: Disciple of Doubt (John 14:1-7; 20:19-31)

Introduction: Christ’s followers had been with Him for three years. Though they didn't know it, His death was only a day away. John 14 begins Christ’s last major recorded conversation with His disciples.

1. What all could the disciples know, from these words, about Christ’s future and their own (vv.1-4)?
2. What value did Thomas’ question have for himself and the others who are Christ’s words (vv.5-7)?
3. What difference does it make that Jesus said, “I am the way the truth and the life” (v.6), instead of “I know” or “I taught you the way the truth and the life”?
4. Which words here comfort you (v.1-7)? Explain?
5. Jesus died (as He said He would and was buried on Friday). John 20 records what happened on Sunday and beyond. Read **John 20:19-31**. What did Thomas miss by not being present with the rest of the disciples on Sunday night (vv. 19-20)?
6. In view of the differences between what the other ten disciples had experienced and what Thomas had experienced, how do you think Thomas and the 10 differed in the way they spent their next week?
7. How did Jesus deal with Thomas’ doubt (vv. 26-29)?
8. What internal changes had to take place for Thomas to say the words of verse 28?
9. How might a period of doubt, suggest Thomas experienced, have a long-term positive effect?
10. What promises about seeing and believing do you find in verses 29 – 31?
 - a. Which of these do you most need to make a part of your faith experience and why?
11. John 20:31 says that “by believing you may have life in his name.” How has belief in Christ’s death and resurrection given you life?

Reflection and Prayer: *Pray, giving an honest expression of your doubts but also expressing you desire for deepened faith. If you are able to do so with a sincere heart, open and close your prayer with Thomas’ statement of faith: “My Lord and my God.”*

Notes: _____

John 14:1-7 14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be 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. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know^[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

John 20:19-31: ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), 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.”

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Have a wonderful and safe summer break and we will return on September 7th.

