

Thomas and Resurrection Faith

Introduction:

● Who was given the nickname:

1. Peter? - _____ (Matt 16:17)
2. The zealot? _____ (Lk 6:15)
3. The twin? _____ (Jn 11:16 – the word Didymus means twin).

● Thomas has commonly been known as d _____ Thomas, but this is a misnomer.

1. We will look at all the words Thomas spoke that are recorded in the Bible and will see that he never doubted.
2. We will trace his journey to resurrection faith.
3. We will discover what this means for us.

Heroic Thomas (Jn 11:14-16)

● The setting

1. The Jews tried to s _____ to death when He was in the temple because He claimed to be God (Jn 10:22-33)
2. Jesus escaped their grasp and retreated some 20 miles away across the J _____ river where John the Baptist started baptizing (Jn 10:39,40)
3. Jesus received word that His friend Lazarus was sick to the point of d _____, but He purposely waits until he dies (Jn 11).
 - a. Jesus tells his apostles, *Let's go to Judea* (Lazarus's home was just _____ miles from Jerusalem (v. 7)
 - b. The apostles o _____ because it was too close to Jerusalem where the Jews tried to stone Him (v. 8).
 - c. Jesus tells them that He must go and wake up Lazarus from death so that they would b _____ (v. 15).

● Thomas's words – *Let us also go, so that we may d _____ with Him* (Jn 11:16)

1. Thomas was c _____ that death awaited them.
2. Thomas witnessed l _____ from the dead when Jesus raised Lazarus.

Searching Thomas (Jn 14:1-6)

● The setting

1. This was the last week of Jesus's life when He was telling His followers that He must die and go where they cannot f _____ (Jn 12:33; 13:36)

2. Jesus c_____ them because they are saddened (Jn 14:1).
 - a. The Greek word translated *believe* appears twice in the same form, which can be either a c_____ or a declaration of fact.
 - b. Understand the first occurrence of *believe* as a d_____ (*You believe in God*)
 - c. Understand the second occurrence as a c_____ (*Believe also in Me*).
3. Jesus tells them that He is going to the Father to prepare the way for them and will one day r_____ for them and that they know the way.
- Thomas's words – *Lord, we do not know where You are going. How do we know the way?* (v. 5)
 1. Jesus replied that He is the w_____, the t_____, and the l_____.
 - a. Notice the word t_____. Jesus is not a way but THE way.
 - b. You cannot b_____ Jesus and get to God.
 2. Jesus stated that there are no e_____ - *No one comes to the Father but through Me*.

Unbelieving Thomas (Jn 20:24,25)

- The setting – all the apostles except Thomas are in the u_____ room of a house.
 1. This is Sunday n_____. Jesus had just risen from the dead that morning.
 2. Jesus appears to the apostles and s_____ them the wounds from the crucifixion, convincing them that He is alive and then disappears.
- Thomas's words
 1. Thomas later comes to the upper room and is told by all the other apostles that Jesus is alive.
 2. Thomas replies, *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.*
 - a. Thomas did not have d_____. He was certain that Jesus was dead.
 - b. The Greek text has a d_____ negative which can be translated, *I will not ever believe*.

Believing Thomas (Jn 20:26-29)

●The setting

1. _____ days after Jesus rose from the dead.
2. All the apostles, including Thomas, are in the same upper room of a house.
3. Jesus appears to them and invites Thomas to t_____ His wounds.

●Thomas's words – *My Lord and my God!*

1. Thomas was not taking the Lord's name in v _____ (Many Americans talk like this, but not the Jews in Jesus's day).
2. Thomas was not talking to the Father. John records that he said these words *to Jesus*.
3. Thomas was calling Jesus is p _____ Lord and God.
 - a. Jesus did not c _____ Thomas, so Thomas was not in error.
 - b. Jesus considered Thomas's words as true f _____ (*You have believed*). – note: translations are divided on whether this is a statement or a rhetorical question.

Conclusion – what does Thomas's journey to resurrection faith mean for us?

- Resurrection faith is not philosophical. It is based upon the h _____ reality that Jesus rose from the dead.
- Resurrection faith is not one of many paths. Jesus is the o _____ way, truth, and life.
- Resurrection faith is not merely intellectual. It is p _____ - Jesus is **my** Lord and **my** God.
- Resurrection faith brings true h _____ - Jesus said, *Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.*
 1. This directly applies to us. Have you trusted Jesus without seeing Him?
 2. The word blessed means, h _____. – since Jesus rose from the dead, He must be who He claimed to be (God in the f _____) and He must have accomplished what He came to do (save believers from the penalty and power of s _____).

Are you blessed?