

JOHN 20.24-29

LESSONS FROM A DOUBTER

THOMAS' NOT-SO-GOOD DAY—

- ▶ *Now on the first day of the week . . . (v. 1)*
- ▶ *On the evening of the first day of the week, when the disciples were together . . . Jesus came and stood among them . . . (v.19)*
- ▶ *Now Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus came . . . (v. 24)*
- ▶ *The other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” (v. 25)*
- ▶ *But he said to them, “I don’t believe you.” (v. 25)*

The first thing we find out about Thomas—

*Jesus came to church
and Thomas was not there!*



Why this teaching? Surely to encourage disciples to meet together on Resurrection Sundays. This loyalty to the weekly meetings is no little part of loyalty to and abiding “sticking” with, or “making one’s home with,” the Risen Christ, and is an important component of faithful discipleship to Him. And as mundane as this loyalty may seem, it holds the promise of our Lord’s proving himself to our always slightly incredulous hearts in some special, crucial way.”

—F. D. Bruner



One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. NLT

His call and responsibility, makes his absence, in the intention of the writer who reminds us of Thomas' position, especially culpable or at least lamentable. Leaders should show up at the gathered meetings of God's people. This is, at first, the single most importunately or perhaps even irresponsibly missed meeting in church history.

—F. D. Bruner

BY NOT BEING “IN CHURCH” WHAT HAD THOMAS MISSED?

- ▶ The peace of Jesus to reassure His disciples who were filled with fear and uncertainty
- ▶ The proof of Jesus' atoning victory over sin and its ultimate consequence, death
- ▶ The promotion of Jesus to be His personal God-sent representatives
- ▶ The power of the Holy Spirit giving His disciples gospel and spiritual authority



Graciously, Jesus provided a second opportunity for Thomas. Thus, this story provides for us these important truths: Jesus expects to find us gathered together—particularly on the first day of the week, and there He imparts the blessing of His presence and peace. Secondly, Jesus came to bring grace—Thomas gets a second chance to believe! However, lest one presume that grace can be obtained on one's own terms or initiative, we must remember that Thomas would have remained in his unbelief apart from the initiative of Jesus to reveal himself to Thomas.



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!” 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.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

LESSONS FROM THE STORY OF A DOUBTER—

(1) Christ-Among-Us must always be our priority.

Jesus came and stood among them . . .

A week later . . . Jesus came and stood among them . . .

*“And when two or three of you are together because of me,
you can be sure that I’ll be there.”*

—Matthew 18.20 MESSAGE BIBLE

“ Note, those know not what they lose who carelessly absent themselves from the gathering of believers . . . Observe, Christ did not appear to Thomas, for his satisfaction, till He found him with the other disciples; thus Christ elevates the meetings of Christians . . . for *there* will He be “*in the midst of them*”

—*Matthew Henry*

LESSONS FROM THE STORY OF A DOUBTER—

(2) Jesus' way is gracious and grace-full. He said nothing about the fear of the disciples or the doubt of Thomas. He simply extended the blessing of himself.

But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

—Romans 5.20b-21 NLT

LESSONS FROM THE STORY OF A DOUBTER—

(3) Jesus is aware of your need and ready to help you. Jesus knew Thomas' disbelief and came to him personally to help him in his time of need.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses . . . Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

—Hebrew 4.15-16

LESSONS FROM THE STORY OF A DOUBTER—

(4) **Jesus is the Crucified-Risen One.** *As He revealed himself to Thomas, so He must be seen by us and presented by us: crucified and risen—death and resurrection, wounds and victory, atonement and justification, sin and grace—and ourselves in union with His identity.*

► Galatians 2.20



Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

*Then Jesus told him, Because you have seen me, you have believed;
blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*

John 20.28-29

SECOND SUNDAY OF RESURRECTION

Risen!

Blessed are those who don't see Me and yet believe