

# +WEEKLY SERMON

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## Doubting Thomas

*John 20 24-31*

We've commemorated the Crucifixion and celebrated the resurrection with great Joy, but for Thomas it was a disappointment, he'd not seen the risen Christ and it's a test of his faith. Well, the initial scepticism shown by Thomas is still prevalent in society today. The sceptics and some of other faiths would have us believe that this is all a con, Jesus didn't die or if He did, He never rose again, His body was taken away to make it look like He had.

All four gospels tell the story with minor differences, but that is to be expected in four independent biographies. But they all come to the same conclusion that the story is true. Again, in our society today some would say it is just an ancient myth or legend, well Lord Justice Wolff a famous judge in the 70s/80s is reported to have said that in his opinion the documentary evidence supplied by the New Testament would be sufficient in a court of law to prove a case.

What are we to think about Thomas and his doubts? He'd missed Jesus' first appearance, how sad is that? He needed proof and to See Jesus' scars. Of course, Jesus returns to the locked room and shows His scars which Thomas does not touch but responds, "My Lord and my God". Jesus went onto say "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed", that of course is us.

Thomas needed to see and touch Jesus to believe, but we have the secure evidence of scripture and the witness of the church. We should have the faith as described in Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Selwyn Hughes expanded on this when he wrote, "When we can believe without seeing, trust without needing to know the why's and wherefore, have an unshakable confidence in whatever God says, simply because it is He that said it, then we're on the way to true discipleship." He also went on to say, "We need courage, determination and perseverance to be disciples of the living God."

For some this can be a challenge, it was for Thomas, he's an eyewitness who struggled, but help is on hand, Role on Pentecost ...

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