

The Parish of Wellow

Thomas the Doubter
John 20:24 - 29

Passage, Sermon Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these sermon notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during the next few weeks to consider the questions below.

1. Sermon Passage - John 20:24 - 29

²⁴Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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 it."

²⁶A 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!" ²⁷Then 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."

²⁸Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

2. Sermon Notes

2.1 If we are honest we all doubt from time to time

- Doubt who Jesus is - that He is the Son of God
- Doubt what Jesus did - that He rose from the dead and opened up the way to heaven
- Doubt what He can do in our lives today - miracles even greater than He did 2000 years ago

2.2 Who was Thomas?

- One of the 12 disciples
- Doubting Thomas but showed devotion and courage
- Honest about his feelings and spoke for the other disciples
- Was a fisherman

2.3 Thomas was a man who demanded proof yet the other disciples may well have done the same had they been absent on that first Sunday.

- The passage is careful to show us that Thomas's experience is very similar to the other disciples
- How would we have reacted had we been in a similar position?

2.4 Thomas is challenged by Jesus to change and embrace Him with faith.

- The words "My Lord and my God" are a confession of Thomas's heartfelt belief in Jesus
- Jesus' response is to confirm a fact that Thomas's faith is anchored to sight
- Jesus then points beyond the apostles to those who come to faith through their testimony "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

2.5 Reality - Thomas is a man like us

- No experience at an empty tomb, nor seen or heard Jesus
- We read the story of Jesus from a distance
- He obtains what he desires - meeting Jesus. But he misses out on the blessing that Jesus gives and this is our position
- We are truly blessed in our belief not having seen Jesus physically but having faith in him ascended and glorified

2.6 Request - Thomas said he needed to see Jesus and he did. We too need to ask and He will not disappoint us.

- “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me” (Rev 3:20)
- Jesus can be in our lives in a far greater way than the disciples were experiencing at this time and all we need to do is ask!

2.7 Relationship - Thomas and the other disciples continued to meet with Jesus

- We too need to nurture our relationship with Jesus - tell Him about our doubts regarding Him, as He did with Thomas He will understand
- As two people getting to know each other spend time together so we need to spend time with the Lord
- Reading His word - the Bible
- Spending time in prayer, not only giving thanks and making requests but allowing Him time to talk to us.
- Our lives will change beyond comparison

3. Questions to consider back at home

3.1 Like Thomas we were not with the disciples on the first Sunday. How do you think you would have reacted had you been in Thomas' shoes?

3.2 Thomas doubted and Jesus knew this. Does Jesus know how we feel? Have we told Him?

3.3 A friend of yours says they are “a Christian from a distance”. What would your response be?

3.4 Do we continue to meet with Jesus regularly during the week or is our relationship building with Him a “Sunday only” event?

If you would like to discuss these questions further please feel free to ring me on 01761 437724

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24.07.05