

## **BELIEVE THAT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**

What happens to our dreams? What dangers sabotage them from becoming reality? What often happens is that without ever trying we quickly dismiss some of our dreams because we think they are impossible. We are afraid of becoming disappointed, so, ahead of time we would rather kill the dream and bury it, instead of believing we serve the God of the impossible.

Thomas was one of twelve men who followed Jesus for three years. Thomas once held a dream that Jesus was God's unique messenger who would change the world. Thomas ate with Jesus, ministered with Him, laughed and cried with Him, and they even dreamed together. Thomas was an eyewitness to seeing crowds gathered, miracles accomplished, people healed, and multitudes fed. But then the crucifixion came. Jesus died, and everything changed for Thomas.

When Jesus first appeared to the disciples after His resurrection, Thomas wasn't there, and then Thomas heard from the other disciples that they had seen Jesus. Thomas was thinking, "That's not possible. Dead people don't rise again." Poor Thomas has been given the reputation of being a doubter, but was he? Let's look at some other Bible references about Thomas.

In John 11 Jesus was told that his good friend Lazarus was ill, and then later on was told that he had died. Jesus said we should go back there, but in verse 8 His disciples questioned, "But Rabbi, a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?" By the time we get to verse 14, Jesus said, "Yes, we are going." Then Thomas spoke up, and you can take what he said one of two ways, either as a pessimist or as an optimist. John 11:16, "Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'" Did he say this in a courageous way, or in a way that shows certain death for all of them?

Then in John 14:5 we read, "Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'" Once again, is Thomas honestly seeking an answer to a tough question, or is he saying it's impossible? You be the judge.

But, let's get back to John 20 where the disciples were all huddled inside a room with the doors locked, and Thomas was not with them when Jesus came. Even the other ten apostles did not believe until they physically saw Jesus. But the next time Jesus appeared to them, Thomas was there, and Jesus said to Thomas in verse 27, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." When Thomas saw the proof, he immediately said, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28)

Jesus never rebuked Thomas for his doubts. And if you have doubts about the reality of Jesus or the ability of Jesus to do something impossible, then if you deal honestly with your doubt, Jesus will give you what you need to move forward and believe. Doubt can be a source of finding what you believe in if you seek answers. Can you openly share your doubts with Jesus and a Christian friend?

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