

April 19, 2020

The Transformation of Thomas

John 20:19-29

Introduction: The name Thomas is Aramaic for "*Twin*". The other name he has in the Bible is "*Didymus*". This word means "*twin*" in Greek. Apparently, Thomas had either a twin brother or sister, but that person is not identified in the Bible.

Thomas only appears in twelve verses in the Gospel record. Eight of the verses that mention Thomas are here in the Gospel of John.

For nearly 2,000 years, Thomas has received a lot of bad press. He was given the name of "*Doubting Thomas*". I would like to attempt to set the record straight today. I think that the Bible reveals another side of Thomas.

I want you to see how the Lord worked in this man's life to move him from doubt to a shout. Notice the *ways* Thomas is revealed in these verses.

I. v. 24 Thomas the Discouraged

A. We are told that Thomas is not with the other disciples, **v. 24**. We do not know where he was that day, but a look at what we do know about him may hold the answers. There are two examples given in the Bible that reveal the heart of Thomas.

1. **John 11:16**

2. **John 14:5**

B. When Jesus died on the cross, Thomas' world was shattered! He no doubt became despondent, depressed and discouraged. Thomas was somewhere else trying to process it all that first Resurrection Sunday.

C. But, whatever his reasons were for missing that assembly that day, Thomas missed much because he was not there. Notice what he missed that day:

1. v. 19 – He missed the *Presence of the Lord*.

2. v. 19 – He missed the *Power of the Lord*.

3. v. 19 – He missed the *Peace of the Lord*.

4. v. 20 – He missed the *Praises of the Lord*.

5. v. 21 – He missed the *Promotions of the Lord*.

6. v. 22-23 – He missed the *Provisions of the Lord*.

D. Thomas is a good picture of why being faithful to church is so vitally important. You never know what you will miss when you fail to come to church.

II. v. 25 **Thomas the Doubter**

- A. Despite their assurances and testimonies, Thomas cannot bring himself to believe. He goes so far as to say, "*I will not believe!*" "

Now, before we come down too hard on Thomas, we need to think about the other disciples, **Luke 24:11; Mark 16:11**.

Here was Thomas' problem: he was a negative person.


- B. There are people watching today who can identify with Thomas.
- C. Others watching have lived lives shaken by one disappointment after another.

III. v. 26-29 **Thomas the Overcomer**

- A. Jesus again appears in their midst. This time, He focuses His attention on Thomas. He repeats the very words of Thomas (v. 25) back to him.
- B. Apparently, Thomas never doubted again.
- C. No matter who you are; what you have done; or where you have been, you need to know that Jesus Christ can and will save you if you will come to Him.

Conclusion: In **verses 29**, Jesus tells Thomas something you need to hear today. He tells Thomas that Thomas had believed because of what he had seen with his eyes. Jesus then says something very important. He says that those who believe without seeing are even more blessed than Thomas. That is good news today!

<h2 style="color: purple;">Post-Resurrection Appearances</h2>	
➤ TO MARY MAGDALENE	• John 20:11-12
➤ TO CERTAIN WOMEN AS THEY RETURNED TO THE SELPUCHRE	• Matthew 28:1-10
➤ TO PETER	• Luke 24:34
➤ TO TWO DISCIPLES ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS	• Luke 24:13-15
➤ TO 10 APOSTLES (THOMAS BEING ABSENT)	• John 20:19-23
➤ TO ALL 11 APOSTLES ONE WEEK LATER (INCLUDING THOMAS)	• John 20:26-28
➤ TO SEVERAL DISCIPLES AT THE SEA OF GALILEE	• John 21:1-23
➤ TO THE APOSTLES AND ABOUT 500 BRETHREN AT ONCE ON AN APPOINTED MOUNTAIN IN GALILEE	• Matt. 28:16-20
➤ TO JAMES	• 1 Cor. 15:7
➤ TO THE APOSTLES AT JERUSALEM IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE ASCENSION	• Acts 1:3-9
➤ TO SAUL OF TARSUS	• Acts 22:3-5 • Acts 9:1-2



1 Corinthians 15:5-8

