

**DOUBTING THOMAS**

New Testament Lesson #174

It was a very sad time for Jesus' disciples after he died on the cross. It seemed like all their work and effort had come to an end. The man they believed in and had expected to restore God's Kingdom again in Israel was now dead and buried. What were they going to do?

Then the excitement of the news of the resurrection came! Was Jesus alive again? Jesus' disciples had received reports from Mary Magdalene and other women that Jesus was alive! The disciples were hesitant, confused and even afraid. They were sitting in a room with the door locked for fear of the Jews. And then Jesus came and stood among them and told them "Peace be with you (Jn. 20:19)!" He then showed them his hands and side. The disciples were "overjoyed when they saw the Lord (v. 20)."

Now one of the twelve Apostles was not there when this happened. His name was Thomas (called Didymus). When he came by later, the other disciples told him that they had seen Jesus. However, he doubted them and would not accept what they said was true. 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 (v. 25)."

Thomas got his chance a week later. The disciples were in the same house again when Jesus came and stood among them. Jesus turned to Thomas and said "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe (v. 27)." Now Thomas believed! He declared before Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus then told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus' last comment is a blessing for us today, who do not have the benefit Thomas had to see and touch Jesus. Through God's Word, the Bible, we can come to know Jesus and believe in him and have our doubts put away!

**POINTS TO CONSIDER:**

- In Hebrews 11:1 there is a definition of faith that seems to echo Jesus' final comment to Thomas. It says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

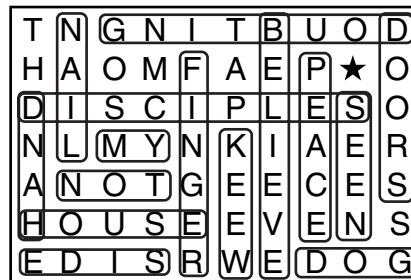
- Just a few days earlier, on the evening before Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus was warning them he would be going away. He told them "You know the way to the place where I am going (Jn. 14:4)." Thomas did not understand, and said, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" It was to this that Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him (vv. 6-8)."

Philip then asked him, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me (vv. 8-10)?"

It seems that Thomas was able to finally grasp some of this when he saw Jesus alive again. When he saw him and felt his hands and put his hand in his side, he declared of Jesus, "My Lord and my God." He saw in the resurrected Jesus the man who was not only his Lord, but a perfect reflection of the Heavenly Father.

**ANSWER KEY:**

house, disciples, doors, Peace, not, finger, nail, week, hand, side, doubting, believe, My, God, seen



THOMAS

You may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

By believing you may have life in His name.