

## Jesus' Appearance to Thomas: Relating to Christ by Faith

John 20:24-31

November 4, 2023

### 1. The Absent Thomas (24)

- a. Thomas was one of the twelve disciples.
- b. Both the Greek name Thomas and the Hebrew name Didymus mean twin.
- c. Thomas encouraged the disciples to follow Jesus even if it cost them their lives (11:16).
- d. In answer to Thomas' question, Jesus made the declaration "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6).
- e. Thomas was absent when Jesus previously appeared to the other disciples.
- f. In Jesus' appearance to Mary, Jesus prepared His disciples to transition from a physical relationship with Jesus to a spiritual relationship with Him by faith.
- g. Jesus' appearance to Thomas teaches *how* disciples are to cultivate this spiritual relationship with Jesus.

### 2. The Refusal to Believe the Witness of the Disciples (25)

- a. Thomas adamantly refused to believe the disciples eyewitness testimony of Jesus' resurrection.
- b. Thomas refuses to believe until he can personally see and touch Jesus' wounded body.
- c. Thomas refuses to believe unless he has physical evidence.
- d. Thomas refused to believe the witness of his fellow apostles just as many today refuse to believe their witness which is recorded for us in the New Testament.

### 3. Jesus' Rebuke of Thomas' Unbelief (26-27)

- a. Jesus appears one week later for Thomas' benefit (26).
  - i. The disciples were gathered together on the Lord's Day.
  - ii. Thomas is among them.
  - iii. The doors are shut.
  - iv. Jesus appears among them.
  - v. Jesus proclaims peace to them.
- b. Jesus addresses Thomas specifically (27).
  - i. Jesus shows His crucifixion wounds, the wounds that purchased our peace with God (Isaiah 53).
  - ii. Jesus then tells Thomas to touch and behold his wounds.
  - iii. Jesus rebukes Thomas of his unbelief.
    1. Thomas was refusing to relate to Jesus by faith; he wanted to relate to Jesus as he had previously in a physical relationship rather than a spiritual one.
    2. Thomas was refusing life in the Spirit in favor of life in the physical presence of Jesus.

### 4. The Way Believers Are to Relate to Jesus (28-29)

- a. Thomas humbled himself before Jesus (28).
  - i. Thomas worshipped Jesus as his Lord.
  - ii. Thomas worshipped Jesus as his God.
    1. The resurrection reveals Jesus' deity (cf. 1:1).
- b. Jesus rebukes Thomas and explains the way believers are to relate to Him (29).
  - i. Jesus rebukes Thomas for not believing until he saw physical evidence.
  - ii. Jesus commends all those who believe basis of others' eyewitness testimony.
    1. All who believe the apostles' eyewitness account recorded for us in the Scripture are blessed both in the saving of our souls, and in the sanctification of our souls.
    2. Disciples of Christ relate to Jesus through the ministry of the Word of God applied to our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

### 5. The Purpose of the Gospel (30-31)

- a. Jesus' signs (30)
  - i. Jesus performed many more signs for His disciples, but all that are necessary for faith in Jesus are included in the Scriptures we have today.

- ii. The 7 signs included in John were chosen under inspiration to climax with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, providing the basis for faith in Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of the world.
- b. The Purpose of the Gospel of John (31)
  - i. The Gospel of John was written so that we would believe in Jesus.
    - 1. That Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah (cf. 1:20, 29).
    - 2. That Jesus is the Son of God (cf. 1:14)
  - ii. The Gospel of John was written so that we would have life through His name.
    - 1. John 1:4 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men."
    - 2. John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life..."
    - 3. John 10:10 "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Conclusion:

1. Are you insisting on relating to Jesus through physical signs and wonders?
2. Are you willing to believe the Word of God alone?
3. If we are to relate to Christ by faith in His Word, are you carving out time for consistent Bible study and meditation?
4. Have you believed in Jesus? Do you have His eternal life?