

Believing Thomas **2-16-14**

In John 20:24-29, we find the record of Thomas meeting Jesus after His resurrection. Specifically, Thomas had not been present when Jesus, on the night of the day He arose, had met with the disciples. Thomas insisted that he see Jesus' hands and side in order to believe. Jesus appeared to him, and Thomas believed.

We sometimes mistakenly think Thomas was a doubter. We ought to instead see him as a man of the appropriate type of faith. Thomas wanted to believe that Jesus had come back. However, Thomas refused to be deceived, even by his close friends. Thomas made a reasonable demand. Finally, Thomas believed when it was met

There is a value of NOT believing. The Bereans were called fair minded for not accepting Paul's words without proof in Acts 17:10-11. We are told that faith comes from hearing the word of God, not the words of men (Romans 10:17). Blind Faith is NOT good.

Thomas' Great Example is First – a desire to believe. An example of this desire is found in the blind man of John 9 (35-37), who wanted to believe in the Son of God. IF we desire NOT to believe, no amount of evidence can change our minds.

Thomas' Second Great Example was his fear of being deceived. The bible repeatedly and often says “do not be deceived” (Luke 21:8, 1 Corinthians 6:9, 15:33, Galatians 6:7, James 1:16, Ephesians 5:6, Colossians 2:8). Even when his close friends told him, he refused to accept their word for this important event.

Thomas' Third Great Example is a desire for real evidence. We are not asked to believe without proof; Proof of God (Romans 1:19-20), or Proof Jesus was the Christ (John 20:30-31). In Isaiah 7, God demanded King Ahaz ask Him for a sign, and when he would not, God said he was offending God. Demanding real evidence means asking for something that is reasonable and relevant. Thomas had seen Jesus die, and to verify this was indeed Jesus, he needed to see those wounds.

Thomas' Fourth Great Example was to believe when the proof is there. We have no excuse to be incredulous:

- If we won't study
- If we won't accept truth
- If we won't change

Thomas' Example For Us is the right kind of faith. It demands evidence, and believes when it is there. We are told to examine ourselves (II Corinthians 13) and to test the spirits (1 John 4:1). Once we do we should hold what is true, and reject what is false (Romans 12:9b Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.)