

Thomas

Thomas, so often remembered as “*Doubting Thomas*” deserves to be respected for his faith.

The name Thomas means twin, John three times uses the Greek version of the name, Didymus, [**John 11:16; John 20:24; John 21:2**].

The question whose twin he was cannot be answered with certainty. Various traditions [Syriac and Egyptian] suggest that his personal name was Judas.

It is only John’s account that we are given personal references to Thomas.

Thomas knew the high cost of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, [John 11:16] and at this time demonstrated his love, loyalty and courage.

Thomas and the rest of the disciples may not have known why Jesus Christ had to die but they were loyal to Him.

There are unknown dangers in doing the work of the Creator God in a world that is mainly hostile towards Him; we need to consider the high cost of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, [**Luke 14:25-33**].

Thomas confessed he was unable to understand where Jesus Christ was going when He warned the twelve of His impending departure, [John 14:1-5].

Thomas missed the appearance of Jesus Christ to the disciples after His resurrection [**John 20:24**] and said he needed visual and tactual proof of the resurrection, [**verse 25**].

A week later Jesus Christ appeared again to the disciples and offered Thomas to test the reality of His resurrected body, [**John 20:26-27**].

John 20:28-29 [New King James] *“And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”*

Thomas’ confession of faith marks the climax of the fourth gospel account, with blessings promised to those who can come to faith without the aid of sight and touch.

When you experience doubt, take encouragement from Thomas, he did not stay in doubt but allowed Jesus Christ to bring him to belief.

Doubt was never meant to be a permanent condition.

Use doubt to encourage us to rethink, its purpose is more to sharpen the mind than to change it.

Doubt should be used to pose a question, seek an answer, then to push for a decision to accept or change.

Never settle into doubts, but move on from them into decisions and belief.

Find another believer with whom you can share your doubts, who can from personal experience, knowledge of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, point you towards belief.

Silent doubts rarely find answers, better to doubt out loud than to disbelieve in silence.

It is when doubt becomes stubbornness and stubbornness becomes a lifestyle that doubt harms faith.

Use doubt to deepen your faith as you continue to search for an answer.