

Gospel of John chapter 20, verses 19 – 31 - ‘Doubting Thomas’:-

The Apostle Thomas appears in all four Gospels and in the Book of Acts. In John’s Gospel he showed bravery when hearing of the death of Lazarus Jesus decides to go back into Judea. See John chapter 11, verses 5 – 16. His name in both Aramaic (*t’oma*) and Greek (*Didymus*) mean ‘twin’, however we do not know his family background or the name of his ‘twin’. If we read the closing verses of the Gospel of Matthew chapter 28, verses 16 – 17, we see that Thomas may not have alone in questioning the reality of the resurrection; although it may have been this incident in the Gospel of John to which Matthew was referring.

Gospel of John chapter 20, verses 24 – 25:-

We do not know why Thomas was missing on that first Easter evening (verses 19 – 23) but he did miss the first reunion of the Risen Lord with His disciples. Being a realist he wanted to see the visual proof that the physical resurrection was a reality.

Verses 26 – 29:-

The familiar greeting used by the Lord Jesus is that which is still in common use in some cultures. “*Peace be with you!*”. The Lord Jesus had already given it a new emphasis. See the Gospel of John chapter 14, verse 27. He already knew the questioning of Thomas and invited him to witness for himself the reality of His presence. The immediate affirmation of faith by Thomas follows - “*My Lord and my God*”, the confirmation of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ which is found throughout the Gospel of John. Those who would come to faith in the future would not have the privilege of a personal encounter with the physical body of the Lord. This emphasis is found in the First Letter of Peter chapter 1 verses 8 – 9.

Verses 30 – 31:-

These verses (along with chapter 21, verse 25) are a declaration that here in this the events recorded by John in his Gospel are only a selection of the works, teaching and miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Though Thomas lived in the first century, his struggle resonates with believers throughout history. Cultural, intellectual, and personal factors can all stoke doubt. Yet the same resurrected Christ stands as Lord, inviting faith. Modern-day believers cling to this promise: blessed are those who trust in the risen Saviour, even when they have not visually seen Him.

The story of “Doubting Thomas” offers a timeless lesson on the fusion of faith and evidence, the compassion of Jesus toward honest seekers, and the unique power of encountering the risen Christ. Thomas’ exclamation “My Lord and my God!” shows the appropriate response: moving from uncertainty and scepticism to heartfelt worship and confession of Christ’s deity.

Today, this account reminds readers that the resurrection is a verifiable, historical event that calls for trust in Jesus. It also assures us that sincere questions are met with divine grace. Ultimately, Thomas’ witness encourages all who, though they may wrestle with doubts, place their faith in Christ and discover life-changing certainty in Him. As Jesus declared, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”.