

# Honest Doubts

*“Now Thomas (also known as Didymus ),  
one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.  
So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’  
But 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.’”  
John 20:24-25 (NIV)*

**I**t is important to remember that Jesus was the One Who chose the twelve apostles. So when we see the failures of the apostles we know that Jesus loved them in spite of their obvious weakness. We must also recognize He chose to use weak people.

People who struggle with doubts are especially grateful for the three appearances of Thomas in Scripture (John 11:16; John 14:5 and John 20:25). Each time Thomas seemed out of his depth and doubting in one way or another.

Thomas was one of those people who saw the problem much better than he saw a solution for it. Having an honest skeptic in the crowd can keep us from running after the illusions that life brings to us. But also their constant doubting can rob normal people of their joy in Christ. So it is

with mixed emotions that we accept the company of a “doubting Thomas”.

If, today, you are a “doubting Thomas”, rest assured the Lord will be patient with you and will gently urge you ahead into a full faith. Do not cease following the Lord because you have honest doubts. Remember the words of Thomas on another occasion when Jesus told the disciples they must go with Him to Jerusalem where the Jews recently sought to kill the Lord.

John 11:16 (NIV) “Then Thomas (also known as Didymus ) said to the rest of the disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’” So the pessimist Thomas thought Jesus’ plan was doomed. The point is that Thomas obeyed and encouraged others to obey in spite of his unbelief.

Seek to move ahead today in obedience to the Lord. Do not allow your doubts to stop you from doing what you know to be right. The Lord will reward you for obeying when you cannot see the Lord’s purpose in the matter.

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