

Easter Sunday 2021

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April 4, 2021

Jesus Appears to Thomas

John 20:24-30

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Doubting Thomas: Defined by your worst moment or choice-

- **Bill Buckner: One play defined a career. 1986**
 - .289 batting avg.
 - .321 Onbase %
 - .991 fielding %

Who is St. Thomas:

- **One of Jesus 12 disciples-**
- **A man of deep passion and conviction:**
 - **John 11:8 Vs. 8** "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" **Vs. 16** Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

In this passage we find Thomas in a chasm of crisis:

- **Vs. 24** *Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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."*

Knew Jesus, but misunderstood his mission.

- **Jesus came to bring peace not a political revolution.**
 - **Che, Ghandi, Stalin, Maximilien Robespierre**

HUMANITY OF CRISIS

A moment of doubt or Incredulity: "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."

- ***Faith requires an excoriation of "I" for faith is a submission of self.**
- Maybe God has let you down.

BARGAIN OF FAITH-

Did not know what he was asking.

- Thomas was wanting proof of the death and failing to understand that the wounds of Jesus are what bring life.

Why the wounds? CENTRAL TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

- *It is belief in what these wounds mean that brings eternal life and restoration of the broken soul.*

Isa 53:5 The wounds of Jesus: But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

- **John 3:16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- **Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Oddly, when Thomas was confronted with the wounds of the risen Christ he reneged on his bargain.

Vs. 26 week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

If you follow the story of Thomas you will find that he did not allow his worst moment to define him.

- **Patron St. of India:** In the end, St. Thomas had given his life to something greater than himself.
- Bill Buckner: Never made it to the Hall of Fame and his career was defined by one error
- Buckner died on May 27, 2019, of [Lewy body dementia](#) at the age of 69. In a statement, Buckner's family said, "Bill fought with courage and grit as he did all things in life. Our hearts are broken but we are at peace knowing he is in the arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Buckner's funeral service was held at Calvary Chapel in Boise, Idaho.
- Stop doubting and believe.