



John 20:24-31

His Best Friend's Gospel

*Extraordinary Claims,
Extraordinary Evidence*



²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

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²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although 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, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”



²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



Thomas's Doubt and Honest Skepticism

- Thomas's doubt was not a refusal to believe but a natural reaction to grief and the seemingly impossible nature of the claim.
- Thomas didn't say he would never believe; he said he needed clear proof to embrace such an extraordinary claim.
- Honest doubt, like Thomas's, is not the opposite of faith. Bringing our questions to Jesus can be an act of trust.
- Christianity does not demand blind faith but invites us to scrutinize its claims and trust the evidence it provides.



Mary's Despair and Confusion

- Jesus graciously appears to Thomas, offering him the evidence he needs.
- By showing Thomas His scars and inviting him to touch them, Jesus proves His resurrection was bodily and physical, not a spiritual illusion.
- The scars of Jesus remain in His glorified body, serving as eternal testimony to His sacrifice and victory over sin and death.
- “My Lord and my God!” is the highest confession of faith recorded in John’s Gospel.
- Jesus’ interaction with Thomas demonstrates that faith and evidence are not in conflict but work together to build a confident belief.



Jesus Provides Extraordinary Evidence

- **Called by Name:** Jesus says just “Mary” instantly breaking through her sorrow and disbelief.
- **Recognizing Him as “Rabboni”:** She grasps that He is truly alive.
- **“Do not Cling to Me”:** Jesus explains that He has not yet ascended, shifting their relationship from physical presence to spiritual communion.
- **A Call to Share:** Mary is commissioned to share the good news with the disciples, becoming the first witness of the Resurrection.
- **A New Purpose:** This personal encounter shows Christ’s transformative call and the purpose He gives us in His mission.



Scripture Records the Extraordinary Evidence for Us

- John's Gospel is written "that you may believe" it provides extraordinary evidence for all generations.
- Scripture is supported an unparalleled amount of ancient manuscripts providing unique textual accuracy.
- Archaeological discoveries consistently affirm the Bible's historical claims.
- Non-Christian sources, like Josephus and Tacitus, also reference events and figures from Scripture.
- Fulfilled prophecies about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection highlight the divine inspiration of Scripture.
- None of the eye or ear witnesses, or earliest believers ever recanted. They were tortured and died still claiming Jesus was alive.



Conclusion

- Christianity's extraordinary claim of Jesus' resurrection is **supported by extraordinary evidence**. Our faith is not a blind faith, but a rational response to the truth.
- Honest questions can lead to **unwavering faith when met with the truth**.
- According to tradition, **Thomas carried the Gospel as far as India, boldly proclaiming the risen Christ and dying as a martyr for his faith**.
- Each of us must decide how to respond to the evidence: **Will we, like Thomas, declare, "My Lord and my God," and live out that faith?**
- Once we believe, **we are called to boldly proclaim the Gospel to others**, pointing them to the evidence and inviting them to trust in Christ.

