

Do not doubt

John 20:24-31; 1 Corinthians 15:1-25; Psalm 145:1-13a 1st Sunday after Easter

John 20:24-31

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."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (NIV).

Do you find it a challenge to simply trust the word of those who witnessed an event or do you need to see for yourself?

I guess it all boils down to how trustworthy we perceive the witness to be.

What of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and those who witnessed it?

Why record the witness of the Apostle Thomas?

That we might not doubt his trustworthiness and witness and the witness and trustworthiness of all the Apostles. and That we might believe, as the Apostles did, that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, on the basis of their witness written and not on seeing for ourselves, and that by believing be reassured, that we have life in his name -"blessed".

Bible Study Questions

Pray

Heavenly Father, give us faith to receive you word, understanding to know what it means, and the will to put it into practice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Read John 20:34-31 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-25

Questions:

1. Even though the disciples had told Thomas "We have seen the Lord" what did Thomas need in order to believe himself? Do you find it a challenge to simply trust the word of those who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus or do you need to see for yourself?
2. What can we conclude about the resurrected body of Jesus from verses 26 to 28?
3. The time had come for the Apostle Thomas to witness the resurrection of Jesus himself. Jesus doesn't invite but command Thomas to do what? We are not told if he did or didn't but what did Thomas conclude? (vs 28)
4. For our benefit to trust Thomas' witness we are reminded Thomas saw and believed. What are we to base our belief on? Seeing for ourselves or the witness of those who did? (vss 29-31)
5. We are told in verses 1 and 2 of 1 Corinthians 15 we are saved by hearing and responding to what?
6. What is the Gospel we have heard and to believe from those who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus such as the Apostle Paul? (vss 3 to 11)
7. Because Christ has been raised from the dead we have the certainty of what? What is the reasoning? How and when? (vss 12 to 25)
8. Think back to the question, "Do you find it a challenge to simply trust the word of those who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus or do you need to see for yourself? Why? Between these two choices what are the two passage of Scripture telling us to choose and put into practice?"

Pray

God of mercy, you wash away our sins, you give us new birth in the Spirit, and you redeem us in the blood of Christ. As we believe and celebrate Christ's resurrection by those who witnessed him, increase our awareness of these blessings, and renew your gift of life within us. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**