

John 20:24-31 – Doubting Thomas

Introduction (John 20:30-31)

1. The Motto of Modern Man: Seeing is believing, trust the science
 - a. Modern man wants to see evidence to believe
 - b. Modern man also trusts science that uses hypotheses to prove theories, yet unseen
2. Modern Religionists isolate the physical world from the spiritual world: seeing is one world and believing is another world
 - a. God made the physical world and the immaterial world, both – and faith is based in both worlds (**Hebrews 11:3, Colossians 1:16**)
 - b. Every invention and medical advancement was done with steps of faith without seeing the end product
3. Soren Kierkegaard coined the term, “a leap of faith” – Christians do not take a blind leap of faith, we hear and weigh the evidence as given by eyewitness accounts and place our trust in the person of Christ based on the witness of Scripture
4. Courtrooms and historical records base truth on eyewitness accounts and we believe based on those accounts, same with Christian faith (**Heb 11:1-2, 1 Cor 15:3-9, 1 John 1:1-3, John 1:14**)
5. The Truth has stood the test of time for millennia – even in our world of evangelical defeatism, the Church is exploding, expanding the Kingdom
6. John wrote his Gospel to win converts, so that they would gain eternal life in Christ the Lord – he wrote as an eyewitness so as to avoid Kierkegardian, blind leaps of faith

Main Idea: Believing in Christ is seeing, and seeing Him is believing in Him. And since you see Him with the eyes of certain faith, your appropriate response is, with repentance and faith, to worship Jesus as Lord and God.

Blind, Pessimistic Unbelief (John 20:24-25)

1. The materialist, skeptic will say there is no way the dead are raised; John welcomes the skeptic introducing Thomas, who was one
2. Thomas seemed to be a doubting pessimist (**John 11:16, 14:5-6**)
3. Thomas was absent the night Jesus appeared to the disciples and is reluctant to believe their testimony about Jesus, risen from the dead
 - a. There is a reluctance, non-committal resignation to follow Jesus
 - b. There is disputing and uncertainty; Thomas is a skeptic
4. More than doubt, Thomas disbelieves – Doubt is double-minded, belief and unbelief; Thomas has already made up his mind – he disbelieves
 - a. Thomas willfully refuses to listen to his friends’ testimonies
 - b. Thomas is sincere, but sincerely wrong; he rejects the Truth
 - c. Thomas had more evidence to believe Jesus was risen from the dead, for he had heard Him and watched Him for three years
 - d. Thomas refuses to listen to the Gospel preachers, and thinks they are gullible – the evidence that convinced them will not convince him, not only must I see, I must also touch his hands, feet, & side
5. The materialist believes faith is gullibility divorced from reason

6. The Lord in the Bible welcomes reasonable inquiry to Truth – faith and reason are married/wed together
 - a. God invites you to present your best arguments about truth and life
 - b. Faith is derived from a reasoned approach, and it involves a moral commitment – Faith in the New testament is an examination of the evidence and then placing your trust in a person, The Lord Jesus
 - i. Example: We do this today with doctors & illnesses
7. Our faith in Christ = we are sin-sick leading to death and we entrust our whole selves to Jesus for healing that comes through forgiveness of Sin
8. Thomas’ problem is not the inability to be convinced, but an unwilling heart that will not be committed – I will not commit unless _____.
9. Is it possible to see and NOT believe? Yes – The Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16, the Scribes and Pharisees in John 6 (**see verse 30**)
 - a. One can SEE miracles and still disbelieve
 - b. Jesus’ judgment on blindness is more blindness, which is why He spoke in parables (**Matthew 13:10-17**)
10. Satan blinds the eyes of unbelievers from the Gospel (**2 Cor 4:3-4**)
 - a. For one to see, God’s grace must remove the veil of blindness from the eyes to behold Christ – to let light shine (**2 Cor 4:5-6**)
 - b. If you believe, you see – and that is the grace of God
11. Thomas wants evidence from the Lord, and Jesus accommodates him

Merciful & Grace Producing Sight (John 20:26-29)

1. Jesus can handle our best arguments, but He will not receive you if you use argument and dishonest questions as rebellious smokescreen to camouflage a love for Sin
 - a. You must recognize that Christ is better than worldly pleasures
2. Jesus graces Thomas
 - a. Jesus knows Thomas’ argument even though He was not there to hear it – Jesus shows He is God in the flesh (**cf. scenario of Nathanael beneath the fig tree**)
 - b. Jesus pursues Thomas and meets him where he is – graces him with Truth, evidence, and faith – He extends his hands, feet, side to him
 - i. Come feel My wounds given for you – Believe!
3. Thomas’s response: Worship!
 - a. My Lord – Jesus is from King David’s Line, rightful heir
 - b. My God – God in the flesh, unrefuted by Jesus
 - c. Thomas confesses much more than Jesus raised from the dead
4. Jesus final words – a Beatitude to you and me who have not seen, and yet believe; God’s grace made us alive so that we might see & believe

Application

1. What restrictions do you have to be convinced? Do you hold Jesus hostage to your doubts? What pleasures are you holding onto?
2. Does your heart worship Jesus like Thomas’ does – as Lord and God!
 - a. How do you display your worshipful heart – do you embrace Jesus’ commands as true and good and full of life, ready to be obeyed?
3. Behold the wounds of Christ once more – walk in obedience of faith and love for Christ the Lord (**1 Peter 1:8-9**)