



International Bible Lesson

International Bible Study Commentary
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

From Doubting Thomas to Worshiping Thomas John 20:26-31

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed (John 20:29—KJV).

*Jesus *said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed" (John 20:29—NASB).*

Jesus said to Thomas, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe" (John 20:21-22—NRSV).

Thomas received the nickname "Doubting Thomas," because he doubted the other disciples when they told him that they had seen the Lord Jesus after He had risen from the grave. However, we could just as well give Thomas the honorable title "Courageous Thomas," for when he learned that Jesus was going back to Bethany because Lazarus had died, he told the other disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." Thomas loved Jesus and Jesus meant so much to him that he declared his willingness to follow Jesus to the end. Perhaps we would understand Thomas better if we remembered that he could be called "Mystified Thomas," for when Jesus told His disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for them in His Father's house and they knew the way, Thomas blurted out, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" And with patient love Jesus answered, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." So, when Jesus died on the cross it broke Thomas' heart. We can almost hear his anguished cry, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will

not believe." After Thomas saw Jesus the next Sunday, Thomas earned the name "Worshiping Thomas," for He praised Jesus, saying, "My Lord and my God." Since then, after learning the truth about Jesus, many believe and receive His blessings.

Thinking Further

1. What reasons might Jesus have had for waiting until the next Sunday before He appeared to Thomas and the other disciples again?
2. Compare these greetings in John 20:26, 1 Timothy 1:2, 2 Timothy 1:2, 2 John 1:3, and Jude 1:2. What do these greetings mean to you personally?
3. Why did Jesus appear and speak to Thomas? Did Jesus achieve His purpose when He saw Thomas? How do you know?
4. Why do you believe in Jesus or not believe in Jesus?
5. How and why did John write the Gospel of John?

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Contact: P.O. Box 1052, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083
and lgp@theiblf.com.