

Believing the Unbelievable!

Because you have seen me, you have believed;
blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have believed.

John 20:29



John 20:24-31
(p. 1053 or p. 1165)

Understanding Thomas

“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.” –John 20:25

“Doubting Thomas”

Thomas: More than skeptic; also courageous and practical

“Let us also go, that we may die with him.” --John 11:16

“Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” --John 14:5

Let’s face it:

We’re glad that he asked!



Believing Jesus

“Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” --John 20:27

Thomas proclaims: “My Lord and my God!” v. 28

“The most unyielding skeptic has bequeathed to us the most profound confession.” D.A. Carson



Jesus had a strategic plan for how to break through Thomas's unbelief.

“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.” –John 14:11

Believing Jesus

“This walk has proved to be quite a journey. I’ve struggled with depression. I would yell, scream, cry at this God whom I had begun to love but didn’t always like. But never once did I have to sacrifice my intellect for my faith, and **he blessed me most keenly through my doubt**. God revealed himself through Scripture, prayer, friendships, and the Christian tradition whenever I pursued him faithfully. I cannot say for certain where the journey ends, but I have committed to follow the way of Christ wherever it may lead. When confronted with the **overwhelming body of evidence I encountered**, when facing down the living God, it was the only rational course of action.”

--Jordan Monge, “The Atheist’s Dilemma, *Christianity Today*”

Walking in Faith

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ---John 20:29

“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” --1 Peter 1:8-9



What difference does believing make:

- ▶ Puts your past in perspective
- ▶ Gives purpose to your present
- ▶ Adds hope to your future