

They Had Been With Jesus – Thomas, also called Didymus –

Luke – The Acts of Jesus

Luke 6:15b; Jn 11:16; 14:5; 20:25, 28

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A Bad Rap – “Doubting Thomas”

- Unless I see...
 - “Don’t be like Thomas, who lacked the faith to believe Jesus was risen from the dead.”
- Was his “doubt” reasonable, justified, normal?

Thomas, the Twin

- Three times called, Didymus, the Twin.
 - Jn 11:16; 20:24; 21:2
 - Modern equivalent, Ditto
 - Possibly the second of two (?)
- As we will see from the record of his actions, it seems he was reluctant to believe without evidence...possibly the result of having been tricked many times (?)
- But, when convinced...he was truly convinced.

Ready to Die With Jesus, Jn 11:16

- Context – Jn 10:22-11:15
 - Jesus has staked His claim as equal with the Father.
 - The Jews prepared to stone him to death for blasphemy – He claimed to be equal with God.
 - He eluded their grasp – it was not yet time.
 - He went to stay near John the Baptist, in the wilderness.
 - Lazarus became ill – and died.
 - Jesus wanted to return to Bethany, near Jerusalem.
 - The disciples were trying to dissuade Him.
- Thomas, alone, was prepared to die with Jesus.
 - He encouraged the others to join with him.

Wanted to Be With Jesus, Jn 14:5

- Jesus told the disciples He was going away and that they would be able to follow Him because they knew the way. 14:1-4
- Thomas was dismayed because though He wanted to be with this one whom he could trust, he didn't think that he knew the way. 14:5
 - He couldn't bear the thought of separation from Jesus.
 - He didn't understand how they would be able to follow Jesus later (after His death). 13:33-36

A Reflection of Bad Experiences?

- Jesus has died...and I am still living.
 - Survivor's guilt
 - I left my best friend to die alone.
- Was Thomas too grieved even to be with the other disciples? Jn 20:24
 - Don't mess with me, this is too close to my heart. 20:25
- After all, who has believed?
 - The disciples after the women's testimony??? Mk 16:10-11
 - The disciples after the testimony of the two from Emmaus??? Mk 16:13; Lk 24:13-35, 36-49

Jesus Tender Love – Thomas's Faith

- Eight days later, Thomas was finally able to join the other disciples...Jesus showed up. Jn 20:26
 - Jesus gave Thomas the only proof he asked. 20:27
 - Jesus understands our weaknesses. Heb 4:15
- Thomas affirmed Jesus' proof of His identity by claiming Him as his Lord and God. 20:28
 - Cf., Peter in Mt 16:16

Bearing the Cup of Jesus' Suffering

- Thomas took the Gospel to India
- Thomas was apparently martyred for his faith, in India
- As Thomas had asked to see the scar left by the spear in Jesus' side, and had no doubt told many of the story of his coming to faith...
- Thomas was apparently run through with a spear.