

Theme: The truth of Christianity is inextricably bound to the historical fact of Christ’s physical resurrection from the dead. If Jesus did not rise our faith and hope are false. But the historical evidence is there for all to see – that they might believe.

Background and Introduction:

We function, live, die by our beliefs. It’s true for everyone.
Ultimately, it is a matter of *faith*.
Therefore, it had better be well grounded.

I. Thomas - A Thoroughly “Modern” Man

A. A man of conviction/courage

1. John 11:16 - Acts on what he knows and believes
2. John 14:5 - They don’t need *directions*, they need *Jesus*

B. A skeptic (He wasn’t there at....)

1. *An empty tomb?* (1-10)
 - a. A Real *resurrection*
 - Attempts to disprove the resurrection have one thing in common – a denial of the supernatural
 - b. Peter and John??
 - John “believed” (8)
2. Mary – in the “garden” (11-18)
 - a. Jesus appears - Present reality
 - b. Goes in joy!
 - To my *brothers?*
 - To my father and your father
 - To my God and your God
 - c. “I have seen the Lord”
3. The upper room (19-23)
 - a. True physical appearance
 - b. Seal of His *presence*
 - c. Telling Thomas!

C. The realist

1. Thomas didn’t see him risen
2. He *did* see him die
3. I must see it for myself (25)

II. Seeing Is Believing!

A. Jesus' love for his own

1. The *request*??
2. The answer
3. Meeting our *requests*

B. Seeing Is believing!

1. Conviction in His *presence*
 - Historical questions are important, but
 - It is His *love* that keeps us
2. The confession of Thomas
 - a. My Lord!
 - Jehovah, Master, Sovereign Ruler
 - Full submission!!
 - b. My God!
 - True recognition (John 1:1-4)
 - c. *My Lord – My God!*
 - Not abstract but *personal!*
 - d. A “universal” confession
 - **It is the declaration of all who believe! Must Be.**
 - Anything less is inadequate

C. Those who don't “see” him?

1. Thomas was privileged
 - Not all saw him in his earthly life
2. So are we (29)
 - Blessed – Not just *happy* - but *blessed by God*
3. **His Presence!**
 - Jesus is with us, like he was with Thomas!

III. Believing is Life!

A. Thomas's faith was tied to reality!

- Skeptics beware
- Jesus invites a true investigation.

B. *Faith* is not a collection of facts

- John wrote a “Gospel” not a biography

C. True faith is “Good News”

- True faith is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27)