

6/1/14

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 37

TITLE: **ALL THE KING'S MEN, PART V**

TEXT: LUKE 6:14D & LUKE 6:15A

INTRODUCTION: (1) SCRIPTURE MAKES CLEAR
THAT GOD'S STANDARDS FOR HIS PEOPLE,
ESPECIALLY FOR THE LEADERS IN HIS CHURCH,
ARE EXTREMELY HIGH.

* IN FACT, THE STANDARD AND GOAL FOR
EVERY BELIEVER IS HOLINESS AND PERFECTION.

** I PETER 1:15&16: (QUOTE THEM). ALSO
QUOTE MATTHEW 5:48 AND I TIMOTHY 3:2.

*** NOW WE CAN SEE THAT THE STANDARD IS
VERY HIGH AND I DO NOT WANT TO SUGGEST TO
YOU TODAY THAT WE SHOULD LOWER THAT
STANDARD IN ANY WAY.

**** HOWEVER SCRIPTURE MAKES EQUALLY CLEAR THAT NO PERSON IN HIMSELF, IN THE **FLESH, MEETS GOD'S STANDARDS, FOR NONE OF** US ARE HOLY IN AND OF OURSELVES. WE ARE SINNERS SAVED BY GRACE. PAUL WOULD SAY IN ROMANS 7:18 (QUOTE IT).

(2) YET THE REALITY TODAY IS, GOD USED PAUL IN A GREAT WAY JUST AS HE USED THE OTHER APOSTLES IN A GREAT WAY.

* WHICH LEADS ME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT **THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S GRACE IS SEEN IN HIS** CHOOSING THE UNDESERVING TO BE HIS PEOPLE AND THE UNQUALIFIED TO DO HIS WORK.

** WHICH LEADS ME TO ASK 2 QUESTIONS. WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF THOSE WHO SERVE HIM? AND WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE DOES JESUS USE IN HIS MINISTRY TO ADVANCE HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM?

*** WELL, SINCE NOBODY IS QUALIFIED, GOD HAS ONLY ONE ALTERNATIVE, TO USE THE UNQUALIFIED TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE.

**** BECAUSE OF THAT PAUL COULD SAY IN I TIMOTHY 1:15, QUOTE I TIMOTHY 1:15, I TIMOTHY 1:12 AND I CORINTHIANS 15:10.

(3) AND THAT IS ESSENTIALLY HOW GOD WORKS. GOD USES UNQUALIFIED PEOPLE, SINNERS, MOVES INTO THEIR LIVES AND WITH SAVING AND SANCTIFYING GRACE, TRANSFORMS THEM INTO USEFUL INSTRUMENTS TO PERFORM HIS PURPOSES.

* TO SHOW YOU WHAT I MEAN, LET ME GIVE YOU SOME MORE BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE GOD USES.

** NOAH GOT DRUNK AND CONDUCTED HIMSELF IN A LEWD WAY.

*** ABRAHAM DOUBTED GOD AND LIED ABOUT HIS WIFE SARAH AND SAID SHE WAS HIS SISTER.

**** JACOB EXTORTED THE BIRTHRIGHT FROM ESAU, DECEIVED HIS FATHER AND RAISED SOME IMMORAL CHILDREN.

(4) MOSES WAS A MURDERER.

* AARON, THE HIGH PRIEST, LED ISRAEL IN THE WORSHIP OF THE GOLDEN CALF AND THE ACCOMPANYING ORGY.

* SAMSON WAS MARKED AS A MAN WITH A LUSTFUL LOVE FOR A WRETCHED WOMAN.

** DAVID WAS AN ADULTERER, A MURDERER, A POOR FATHER AND A MAN WITH SUCH BLOODY **HANDS THAT GOD WOULDN'T EVEN LET HIM** BUILD THE TEMPLE.

*** **SOLOMON WAS THE WORLD'S LEADING** POLYGAMIST HAVING SEVEN HUNDRED WIVES AND THREE HUNDRED CONCUBINES ACCORDING TO I KINGS 11:3. HE MAKES JOSEPH SMITH, THE FOUNDER OF THE MORMON CHURCH, LOOK MONOGAMOUS AND HIS WIVES TURNED AWAY HIS HEART FROM GOD.

**** BEYOND SOLOMON: JONAH DEFIED GOD IN DIRECT DISOBEDIENCE AND GOT TERRIBLY UPSET WHEN THE CITY OF NINEVAH WAS CONVERTED AND SPARED.

(5) ELIJAH WAS ABLE TO HANDLE 850 FALSE PRIESTS AND PROPHETS, AND STAND UP TO THEM, BUT RAN LIKE A COWARD FROM ONE WOMAN - JEZEBEL.

* AND OF COURSE PAUL WAS A FORMER CHRISTIAN KILLER.

** AND NEED I GO ON, I THINK YOU GET THE POINT!

***** I MEAN IF YOU'LL JUST FOLLOW THE FLOW OF THE PEOPLE GOD USED, YOU'LL SEE A MARCH OF THE UNQUALIFIED.**

****** AND WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE 12, YOU'LL MEET A GROUP OF UNQUALIFIED MEN, JUST LIKE ALL THE REST, BUT MEN THAT SURRENDERED THEMSELVES TO THE LORD THAT GOD USED MIGHTILY.**

(6) BELOVED, THE MESSENGERS FOR JESUS' MISSION WERE MARRED, CHIPPED, CRACKED AND BROKEN VESSELS. AND THAT THEY WERE USED BY CHRIST IS A TESTIMONY TO THE DIFFERENCE JESUS CAN MAKE IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WHEN THEY YIELD TO HIM. (AND THEN CHRIST IS GLORIFIED).

*** WILLIAM HENDRIKSEN WRITES: "WHAT POINTS UP THE GREATNESS OF JESUS IS THAT HE TOOK SUCH MEN AS THESE AND WELDED THEM INTO AN AMAZINGLY INFLUENTIAL COMMUNITY THAT WOULD PROVE TO BE NOT ONLY A WORTHY LINK WITH ISRAEL'S PAST BUT ALSO A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR THE CHURCH'S FUTURE." (END QUOTE)**

**** AND TODAY I WANT TO CONTINUE TO LOOK AT THE 12 THAT CHRIST USED, TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES.**

***** AND I'VE TITLED OUR STUDY ALL THE KING'S MEN, AND TODAY WE COME TO PART V, OF A SEVEN PART STUDY.**

****** AND SO FAR WE'VE LOOKED AT PETER, ANDREW, JAMES, JOHN AND PHILIP. AND LORD WILLING TODAY WE'LL LOOK AT BARTHOLOMEW AND THOMAS, AND THOSE TWO MEN'S NAMES WILL BE OUR OUTLINE.**

- AND WE'LL BEGIN BY LOOKING AT BARTHOLOMEW, LOOK BACK AT LUKE 6:14 PLEASE.

I. BARTHOLOMEW, (READ LUKE 6:14)

A. NOW NOTE THAT BARTHOLOMEW AND NATHANAEL ARE THE SAME PERSON IN THE N.T. IN THE FIRST 3 GOSPELS HE IS CALLED **BARTHOLOMEW AND IN JOHN'S GOSPEL HE IS CALLED NATHANAEL.**

* AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN THAT HIS FIRST NAME **WAS NATHANAEL WHICH MEANS "GIFT OF GOD"** AND HIS LAST NAME WAS BARTHOLOMEW **WHICH MEANS "SON OF TOLMAI".**

** AND PHILIP AND BARTHOLOMEW ARE PAIRED UP IN MATTHEW'S, MARK'S AND LUKE'S ACCOUNT OF THE 12, BUT IN JOHN'S GOSPEL IN THE CALLING OF PHILIP AFTER ANDREW AND PETER, NATHANAEL IS PAIRED UP AND CALLED RIGHT AFTER PHILIP.

*** THUS, IT STANDS TO REASON THAT SINCE JOHN DOES NOT MENTION BARTHOLOMEW AND THE OTHER GOSPELS DO NOT MENTION NATHANAEL, THAT NATHANAEL AND BARTHOLOMEW MUST BE THE SAME PERSON. AND MOST COMMENTATORS AGREE ON THAT, THE LINK IS PHILIP.

**** NOW NATHANAEL OR BARTHOLOMEW WAS FROM CANA OF GALILEE ACCORDING TO JOHN 21:2 AND WAS BROUGHT TO JESUS BY PHILIP. AND ONLY ONE PASSAGE IN THE BIBLE REALLY TELLS US ANYTHING ABOUT HIM AND IT IS FOUND IN JOHN 1:45-51 AND SAYS:

- JOHN 1:45-51:

V. 45 - PHILIP FOUND NATHANAEL, AND SAID TO **HIM, "WE HAVE FOUND HIM, OF WHOM MOSES IN THE LAW AND ALSO THE PROPHETS WROTE, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE SON OF JOSEPH."**

V. 46 - **AND NATHANAEL SAID TO HIM, "CAN ANY GOOD THING COME OUT OF NAZARETH?" PHILIP SAID TO HIM, "COME AND SEE."**

V. 47 - JESUS SAW NATHANAEL COMING TO HIM, **AND SAID OF HIM, "BEHOLD, AN ISRAELITE INDEED, IN WHOM IS NO GUILF!"**

V. 48 - **NATHANAEL SAID TO HIM, "HOW DO YOU KNOW ME?" JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, "BEFORE PHILIP CALLED YOU, WHEN YOU WERE UNDER THE FIG TREE, I SAW YOU."**

V. 49 - **NATHANAEL ANSWERED HIM, "RABBI, YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD; YOU ARE THE KING OF ISRAEL."**

V. 50 - JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, **"BECAUSE I SAID TO YOU THAT I SAW YOU UNDER THE FIG TREE, DO YOU BELIEVE? YOU SHALL SEE GREATER THINGS THAN THESE."**

V. 51 - **AND HE SAID TO HIM, "TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, YOU SHALL SEE THE HEAVENS OPENED, AND THE ANGELS OF GOD ASCENDING AND DESCENDING UPON THE SON OF MAN."**

1. NOW SEVERAL THINGS ARE REVEALED ABOUT **NATHANAEL IN THIS TEXT. NO. 1 PHILIP'S** WORDS IMPLY THAT, LIKE HIMSELF, NATHANAEL WAS A STUDENT OF SCRIPTURE AND WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OF THE O.T.

* AND A FURTHER IMPLICATION SEEMS TO BE THAT THESE TWO MEN WERE PARTNERS IN SCRIPTURE STUDY, HAVING EXAMINED THE O.T. TOGETHER.

**** FOR IT IS CLEAR FROM PHILIP'S STATEMENT THAT HE KNEW NATHANAEL WOULD IMMEDIATELY KNOW WHOM HE WAS TALKING ABOUT, THE ONE WHOM MOSES AND THE PROPHETS WROTE ABOUT, IN OTHER WORDS, "NATHANAEL, WE'VE FOUND THE ONE SCRIPTURE TOLD US ABOUT."**

***** BUT NOTICE NATHANAEL'S RESPONSE IN V. 46, "CAN ANY GOOD THING COME OUT OF NAZARETH?"**

****** AND INSTEAD OF JUDGING JESUS BY WHAT HE SAID AND DID, NATHANAEL OR BARTHOLOMEW STUMBLED OVER THE FACT THAT JESUS WAS FROM NAZARETH, A TOWN WITH A NOTABLY UNSAVORY REPUTATION.**

2. MERRILL UNGER IN HIS BIBLE DICTIONARY **COMMUNICATES THAT "IT WOULD SEEM PROBABLE THAT "GOOD" MUST BE TAKEN IN AN ETHICAL SENSE AND THAT THE PEOPLE OF NAZARETH HAD A BAD NAME AMONG THEIR NEIGHBORS FOR IRRELIGION OR SOME LAXITY OF MORALS."** (END QUOTE)

* AND IT APPEARS THAT THE PEOPLE FROM NAZARETH WERE MUCH MORE UNREFINED, WILD AND UNEDUCATED THAN THE PEOPLE OF CANA, WHERE NATHANAEL WAS FROM.

** NAZARETH WAS THE LAST STOP BEFORE THE GENTILE WORLD, IT WAS ON THE FRINGE AND **I'M SURE FROM NATHANAEL'S** PERSPECTIVE, THE ONLY THING THAT CAME OUT OF NAZARETH WAS TROUBLE.

*** AND BASICALLY NATHANAEL WAS JUDGMENTAL AND HAD YIELDED TO THE UGLY SIN OF PREJUDICE. FOR PREJUDICE IS AN UNCALLED-FOR GENERALIZATION BASED ON FEELINGS OF SUPERIORITY.

**** AND NATHANAEL JUST BLANKETED THE WHOLE TOWN OF NAZARETH AND SAID, **"NOTHING GOOD COULD POSSIBLY EVER COME OUT OF THERE."**

3. AND THE NATURE OF PREJUDICE IS TO TURN A DEAF EAR AND A BLIND EYE TO ANY TRUTH THAT DOES NOT FIT ITS PRECONCEIVED AND CHERISHED IDEAS. IN **OTHER WORDS DON'T** CONFUSE ME WITH THE FACTS OR REALITY.

* CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS A COMMON AND POWERFUL WEAPON OF SATAN. FOR BY APPEALING TO VARIOUS PREJUDICES HE OFTEN SUCCEEDS IN GETTING A PERSON TO REJECT THE GOSPEL EVEN BEFORE LEARNING WHAT IT IS REALLY ABOUT.

** A PERFECT ILLUSTRATION OF THAT IS THE PREJUDICES OF THEIR MAN-MADE TRADITIONS - BLINDED MANY JEWS TO THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF THEIR SCRIPTURES AND THEREBY LED THEM TO REJECT JESUS AS THE MESSIAH, DESPITE HIS CLEAR DEMONSTRATIONS OF DIVINE POWER AND FULFILLMENT OF O.T. PROPHECY.

*** AND THAT THE GOSPEL WOULD GO TO THE GENTILES, TO ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE, THAT GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, WAS HARD FOR SOME JEWS TO HANDLE, FOR THEY THOUGHT GENTILES WERE KINDLING FOR HELL.

**** AND WE MUST BE ON GUARD AGAINST ANY KIND OF PREJUDICE, FOR WE AS THE REDEEMED SHOULD CLEARLY SEE THAT THE ONLY THING THAT SEPARATES US FROM THE LOST IS MERCY AND GRACE, THE GROUND IS LEVEL AT THE CROSS, QUOTE ROMANS 12:3.

4. WELL, FORTUNATELY, NATHANAEAL'S PREJUDICE DID NOT TOTALLY CONTROL HIM, FOR AT THE END OF V. 46 WHEN PHILIP SAID TO **HIM, "COME AND SEE", HE WENT TO SEE JESUS,** HE WENT TO MEET JESUS. SO OBVIOUSLY HIS PREJUDICE DID NOT CONTROL HIM.

* NOW FROM THE MOUTH OF JESUS IN V. 47 WE LEARN A COUPLE OF OTHER THINGS ABOUT NATHANAEL. NO. 1 HE WAS A JEW, AN ISRAELITE, AND NO. 2 THERE WAS NO GUILLE IN HIM.

** AND THE WORD GUILLE LIT. MEANS, CRAFT OR DECEIT. HE HAD NO DECEIT OR DUPLICITY, NO HYPOCRISY OR PHONINESS EVEN THOUGH HE HAD SOME PREJUDICE IN HIM, HE CERTAINLY **DIDN'T TRY TO HIDE IT OR BE** PHONY ABOUT IT.

*** NATHANAEL WAS AN HONEST MAN, A MAN OF INTEGRITY WHEN IT CAME TO DECEIT OR GUILLE.

**** **IN FACT IN V. 48, NATHANAEL'S RESPONSE** TO JESUS REFLECTED THAT HONESTY, FOR HE DID NOT SWELL UP WITH PRIDE ABOUT WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIM, BUT WONDERED HOW JESUS COULD SPEAK WITH SUCH CERTAINTY ABOUT A PERSON HE NEVER MET.

5. SO NATHANAEL SAYS IN V. 48, "HOW DO YOU KNOW ME, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I AM REALLY LIKE ON THE INSIDE? HE WAS ASKING, HE WANTED TO KNOW.

*** AND CHRIST'S ANSWER CONVINCED HIM AT THE END OF V. 48, "BEFORE PHILIP CALLED YOU, WHEN YOU WERE UNDER THE FIG TREE, I SAW YOU."**

**** NOW THAT ANSWER CONVINCED NATHANAEL THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH FOR NATHANAEL ANSWERED IN V. 49, "RABBI OR TEACHER, YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD; YOU ARE THE KING OF ISRAEL."**

***** AND THE QUESTION COMES UP, WHAT WAS THE BIG DEAL ABOUT THAT, SO WHAT IF JESUS SAW HIM EARLIER UNDER A FIG TREE WITH HIS PHYSICAL EYES?**

****** WELL, IT APPEARS THAT JESUS NOT ONLY SAW WHERE NATHANAEL WAS SITTING BUT KNEW WHAT HE WAS THINKING.**

6. FOR YOU SEE SITTING UNDER A FIG TREE IN THAT DAY WAS A PLACE TO BE ALONE AND MEDITATE.

* FIG TREES OF THAT REGION COULD BECOME QUITE LARGE AND THEY WERE OFTEN PLANTED NEAR A HOUSE TO PROVIDE SHADE, COMFORT AND A PLACE OF RETREAT FROM HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES. IT WAS A GOOD PLACE TO GO AND READ.

** AND THE CONNECTION IS, NATHANAEL MUST HAVE BEEN MEDIATING AND PRAYING IN THE SHADE OF SUCH A TREE BEFORE PHILIP CAME TO HIM, AND JESUS KNEW THAT HE WAS THINKING ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES THEREFORE HIS HEART HAD BEEN DIVINELY PREPARED TO COME TO THE MESSIAH.

*** AND V. 50 IN THE N.I.V. SHEDS FURTHER LIGHT HERE. FOR V. 50 APPEARS TO BE A STATEMENT OF FACT RATHER THAN A **QUESTION, "YOU BELIEVED BECAUSE I TOLD YOU I SAW YOU UNDER THE FIG TREE."** PERIOD, NOT AS A QUESTION AS THE NAS, KJV & NKJV AND THE ESV TRANSLATES IT. A STATEMENT OF FACT AND THAT FITS THE CONTEXT HERE.

**** AND JESUS WAS SAYING, YOU KNOW WHAT **NATHANAEL, YOU'RE GOING TO SEE GREATER** THINGS THAN THAT. SO WHAT CHRIST SAID TO HIM WAS A GREAT THING AND WENT BEYOND PHYSICALLY SEEING HIM TO SEEING IN HIS HEART.

7. AND THAT CONVINCED NATHANAEL THAT CHRIST WAS THE MESSIAH. BUT HE WAS GOING TO SEE GREATER THINGS THAN THAT, WHICH FURTHER STATES THAT NATHANAEL WAS BARTHOLOMEW, FOR ONLY AN APOSTLE WOULD SPEND A LOT OF TIME WITH JESUS FROM THEN ON, ACTUALLY LIVING AND TRAVELING WITH HIM.

* AND IN BEING WITH JESUS, HE WOULD SEE HEAVEN AND EARTH LINKED IN CHRIST AS HE PERFORMED MIRACLE AFTER MIRACLE AFTER MIRACLE.

**** FOR IN ESSENCE, CHRIST'S DEMONSTRATION** OF OMNISCIENCE WOULD COME TO SEEM SMALL TO NATHANAEL IN COMPARISON TO THE WONDERS OF DIVINE POWER THAT HE WOULD WITNESS FOR APPROX. 3 YEARS AS HEAVEN WOULD BE OPENED AND EVEN THE ANGELS WOULD MINISTER TO CHRIST.

*** SO NATHANAEL AT THAT POINT WAS CONVINCED THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH **AND WOULD FOLLOW HIM, AND THAT'S ABOUT** ALL WE KNOW ABOUT THIS APOSTLE WHICH LEADS US TO THOMAS.

II. THOMAS. NOW WHAT IS THE FIRST WORD YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF THOMAS? A WORD THAT WOULD PRECEDE HIS NAME, **PROBABLY "DOUBTING"**.

* AND THAT IS UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE I BELIEVE THOMAS HAS RECEIVED SOME BAD PRESS, FOR HE WAS NO MORE OF A DOUBTER THAN THE OTHER 11 **AS WE'LL SEE.**

**** AND THERE ARE 3 BRIEF TEXTS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL THAT WILL HELP US TO GET TO KNOW THOMAS AND THE FIRST IS FOUND IN JOHN 11:14-16. (SO ALL THAT IS KNOWN ABOUT THOMAS BESIDES HIS NAME IS FOUND IN JOHN'S GOSPEL.)**

*** NOW WITH THAT SAID, AS WE APPROACH JOHN 11, JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES LEFT JERUSALEM BECAUSE THE PLOT TO TAKE HIS LIFE HAD BECOME MORE PRONOUNCED, AS JOHN 10:39 COMMUNICATES.

****** BUT IT WASN'T CHRIST'S TIME TO DIE. NOW AS THEY WERE STAYING BY THE JORDAN RIVER WHERE JOHN THE BAPTIZER HAD FIRST DONE HIS BAPTIZING, JESUS RECEIVED THE NEWS THAT HIS FRIEND LAZARUS WAS SICK.**

1. BUT INSTEAD OF GOING RIGHT AWAY, JESUS WAITED TWO DAYS SO THAT THE GREAT MIRACLE OF RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD **WOULD TAKE PLACE AND THE DISCIPLE'S FAITH** WOULD INCREASE. LAZARUS HAD BEEN DEAD FOUR DAYS BY THE TIME JESUS ARRIVED IN BETHANY.

* READ JOHN 11:14-16:

V. 14 - THEN JESUS THEREFORE SAID TO THEM **PLAINLY, "LAZARUS IS DEAD,**

V. 15 - AND I AM GLAD FOR YOUR SAKES THAT I WAS NOT THERE, SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE; **BUT LET US GO TO HIM."**

V. 16 - THOMAS THEREFORE, WHO IS CALLED **DIDYMUS, SAID TO HIS FELLOW DISCIPLES, "LET US ALSO GO, THAT WE MAY DIE WITH HIM."**

**** NOW WHEN JESUS SAID, "LET US GO TO HIM",**
THE DISCIPLES PANICKED. NOW WHY? BECAUSE
LAZARUS'S BODY WAS IN BETHANY AND
BETHANY WAS ONLY TWO MILES EAST OF
JERUSALEM.

**** AND THEY'RE THINKING, "GOING BACK TO**
JERUSALEM IS SUICIDE! **WE CAN'T GO BACK**
THERE, WE'RE DEAD DUCKS." AND POSSIBLY
SOME OF THEM WANTED TO LEAVE AFTER
HEARING THAT.

***** WELL, IT'S AT THIS POINT THAT IN V. 16**
THAT THOMAS ENTERS THE SCENE AND SAYS,
"LET US ALSO GO, THAT WE MAY DIE WITH HIM."

****** AND IN THAT STATEMENT WE SEE SEVERAL**
THINGS ABOUT THOMAS. NO. 1 INITIATIVE,
LOYALTY AND LEADERSHIP, THOMAS KIND OF
TAKES OVER, RISES TO THE TOP AND SAYS,
"WAIT A MINUTE GUYS, LET'S GO WITH HIM AND
DIE WITH HIM." (I'M NOT LEAVING)

2. BUT ALSO NO. 2, THERE IS PESSIMISM IN HIS STATEMENT. FOR THOMAS WAS CONVINCED IF JESUS WENT NEAR JERUSALEM HE WOULD BE KILLED, ALONG WITH ALL THOSE WHO WENT WITH HIM. IT WAS ALL VERY CLEAR TO THOMAS - HE WAS SURE OF IT!

* WHICH ALSO SHOWS HIS COURAGE. FOR THE GREATEST COURAGE IN THE WORLD IS NOT THE COURAGE OF AN OPTIMIST, BECAUSE AN OPTIMIST ALWAYS EXPECTS THE BEST.

**** BUT A PESSIMIST DOESN'T, HE EXPECTS THE WORST AND EXPECTING THE WORST THOMAS WAS STILL WILLING TO GO WHICH SHOWS LOVE, COURAGE AND THAT HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM CHRIST.**

*** THIS IS NOT A DOUBTING THOMAS, BUT A BELIEVING COURAGEOUS, LOVING THOMAS. HE LOVED CHRIST AND WAS WILLING AT THAT POINT AT LEAST TO DIE WITH HIM, WHICH LEADS US TO A SECOND PASSAGE IN JOHN 14.

*** NOW BEFORE I READ A PORTION OF JOHN 14, REMEMBER THAT AT THE END OF JOHN 13, JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES THAT HE WOULD ONLY BE WITH THEM A LITTLE WHILE LONGER. WELL, THAT TROUBLED THE DISCIPLES FOR THEY HAD SPENT THE LAST 3 YEARS OF THEIR LIVES WITH JESUS.

**** WELL, JESUS WENT ON TO SAY TO THEM IN JOHN 14:1-3 (QUOTE THEM).

3. NOW V. 4 SAYS: "AND YOU KNOW THE WAY WHERE I AM GOING."

*** WELL IN V. 5, THOMAS SPEAKS UP, "LORD, WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING, HOW DO WE KNOW THE WAY?" WHICH LEADS US TO THE FAMILIAR TEXT OF JOHN 14:6 WHICH SAYS: (QUOTE IT).**

** NOW THOMAS LIKE THE OTHER DISCIPLES HAD ALMOST NO UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WAS COMING, ALTHOUGH JESUS HAD TAUGHT THEM, IT **JUST DIDN'T CONNECT** WITH THOMAS OR THE OTHERS.

*** AND THOMAS HAD LITTLE COMPREHENSION OF WHAT JESUS HAD JUST SAID, APPARENTLY ASSUMING JESUS WAS ONLY TALKING ABOUT TAKING A LONG JOURNEY TO A DISTANT COUNTRY.

**** HE WAS BEWILDERED, SADDENED AND **ANXIOUS. AND AGAIN THOMAS'S PESSIMISM AND LOVE ARE REVEALED. HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM JESUS, HE DOESN'T LIKE WHAT HE'S HEARING.**

***** **LORD, WE DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING AND WE'LL NEVER FIND THE PLACE.**

4. AND IN V. 6 JESUS REMINDS THOMAS THAT HE IS THE WAY, AND **THOMAS, I'LL TAKE YOU THERE, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEAR. THOMAS** MANIFESTED DESPONDENCY AND DEVOTION. HE WAS AFRAID OF LOSING HIS BELOVED SAVIOR.

* HE LOVED CHRIST AND IT APPEARS HE ALWAYS THOUGHT THE WORST WHICH LEADS US TO ONE LAST TEXT IN JOHN 20:24-29.

** NOW THE BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT HERE IS JESUS IS CRUCIFIED IN JOHN 19, AND THOMAS MUST HAVE BEEN SHATTERED. HE PROBABLY SAID AS A PESSIMIST, "I KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN, THE WORST ALWAYS **HAPPENS, I HAVE BAD LUCK, MURPHY'S LAW.**"

*** AND BEING SEPARATED FROM HIS LORD WAS HIS GREATEST FEAR AND IT CAME TRUE AND HE HAD TO BE DEPRESSED. NOW LOOK AT V. 24 OF JOHN 20.

**** READ JOHN 20:24-29:

V. 24 - BUT THOMAS, ONE OF THE TWELVE, CALLED DIDYMUS, WAS NOT WITH THEM WHEN JESUS CAME.

V. 25 - THE OTHER DISCIPLES THEREFORE WERE **SAYING TO HIM, "WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD!" BUT HE SAID TO THEM, "UNLESS I SHALL SEE IN HIS HANDS THE IMPRINT OF THE NAILS, AND PUT MY FINGER INTO THE PLACE OF THE NAILS, AND PUT MY HAND INTO HIS SIDE, I WILL NOT BELIEVE."**

V. 26 AND AFTER EIGHT DAYS AGAIN HIS DISCIPLES WERE INSIDE, AND THOMAS WITH THEM. JESUS CAME, THE DOORS HAVING BEEN SHUT, LIT. LOCKED, AND STOOD IN THEIR MIDST, **AND SAID, "PEACE BE WITH YOU."**

V. 27 - **THEN HE SAID TO THOMAS, "REACH HERE YOUR FINGER, AND SEE MY HANDS; AND REACH HERE YOUR HAND, AND PUT IT INTO MY SIDE; AND BE NOT UNBELIEVING, BUT BELIEVING."**

V. 28 - THOMAS ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, **"MY LORD AND MY GOD!"**

V. 29 - **JESUS SAID TO HIM, "BECAUSE YOU HAVE SEEN ME, HAVE YOU BELIEVED? BLESSED ARE THEY WHO DID NOT SEE, AND YET BELIEVED."**

5. NOW THOMAS IS DEPRESSED, HE'S A PESSIMIST BY NATURE AND HE'S BUMMED, SO IT'S HARD TO CONVINCE A PERSON LIKE THIS THAT ANYTHING WILL EVER BE RIGHT AGAIN - NO LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL.

* AND TO THE PERSON IN THAT STATE, HOPE IS NOT A REALITY, BUT DOOM AND DESPAIR AND **LET ME SAY, THOMAS'S DOUBT WAS NO GREATER THAN THE OTHER 10, FOR JUDAS IS DEAD BY NOW, AND NONE OF THEM BELIEVED JESUS WAS ALIVE UNTIL THEY SAW HIM IN PERSON.**

**** SO THOMAS SAYS "UNLESS I SHALL SEE IN HIS HANDS THE IMPRINT OF THE NAILS, AND PUT MY FINGER INTO THE PLACE OF THE NAILS, AND PUT MY HAND INTO HIS SIDE, I WILL NOT BELIEVE." (AGAIN HE'S A PESSIMIST).**

*** WELL, 8 DAYS LATER, THOMAS IS WITH THE OTHER DISCIPLES, LOCKED IN A ROOM AND JESUS WALKS THROUGH A WALL AND SAYS, **"PEACE BE WITH YOU", WHICH WAS A FITTING GREETING AFTER WALKING THROUGH A WALL, KIND OF A DRAMATIC ENTRANCE.**

**** AND JESUS REVEALS HIMSELF TO THOMAS AND THOMAS RESPONDS WITH ONE OF THE GREATEST CONFESSIONS OF FAITH EVER GIVEN, **"MY LORD AND MY GOD."**

6. AND THAT CONFESSION COMMUNICATES THE DEITY OF CHRIST AND JESUS DID NOT REBUKE HIM OR CORRECT HIM. AND IF JESUS WERE NOT GOD IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WRONG TO ALLOW THOMAS TO SAY HE WAS GOD IF HE WAS NOT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IDOLATROUS AND BLASPHEMOUS.

* AND THAT LITTLE CONFESSION IN JOHN 20:28 DESTROYS THE LIE THAT JESUS IS NOT GOD. AND ALL THE ISMS, SCHISMS AND SPASMS THAT COME ALONG AND DENY THE DEITY OF CHRIST ARE UTTERLY PUT TO SILENCE BY THOMAS. WHAT A GREAT CONFESSION!! (ONE THAT YOU NEED TO BOW TO IF YOU DON'T KNOW CHRIST TODAY).

IN WRAP UP: (1) ONE TRADITION TELLS US THAT THOMAS WAS MARTYRED WHEN, BECAUSE OF HIS FAITH, A SPEAR WAS RAMMED THROUGH HIS BODY.

* AND **IF THAT'S TRUE, WHAT A FITTING CLIMAX** FOR ONE WHO WAS TOLD TO REACH FORTH HIS HAND AND FEEL THE SPEAR MARK IN HIS LORD.

** WITH THAT IN MIND, WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE DOES GOD USE, PESSIMISTS AND DOUBTERS LIKE THOMAS AND PREJUDICED PEOPLE LIKE NATHANAEL BARTHOLOMEW.

*** GOD USES MARRED BROKEN CHIPPED VESSELS, SO HE CAN USE US. SO I ASK IN WHAT WAYS ARE YOU UNQUALIFIED TO SERVE TODAY?

**** IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE LORD NEED TO TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE SO THAT HE CAN USE YOU. HE WILL USE YOU, IF YOU YIELD AND SUBMIT TO HIS WILL AND HE WILL PURIFY YOU AND QUALIFY YOU.

(2) DON'T BE A SPECTATOR, BE A SERVANT, BE USED BY THE MASTER. QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 1:26-29 & V. 31.

* LAST OF ALL TODAY, IS JESUS YOUR LORD AND YOUR GOD AND YOUR SAVIOR? HE MUST BE TO BE FORGIVEN OF YOUR SINS AND COME INTO RIGHT RELATIONSHIP TO A HOLY GOD. QUOTE ROMANS 10:9 AND II CORINTHIANS 4:5 AND PRAY.