

Episode #2-29 – John 20 Part 3 - Believing Without Seeing

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We have considered the Lord's death on the cross for our sins, His burial, and His resurrection. Now, we are considering the various witnesses to the Lord's resurrection as we have them in the book of John. First, we saw Mary Magdalene, who met the Lord at the tomb. Next, we learned how ten of the disciples saw the Lord in a locked room where He appeared.

III. John 20:24-29. The Lord and Thomas.

- A. V.24. Thomas means "The Twin," Greek *Didymus*. John 11:16, 14:5. A pessimist, or a realist, who was not afraid to question things. He was really no more doubting than the others had been before they actually saw the Lord, he just saw Him later.
- B. V.25. Others have seen and believed, but not yet Thomas. It must have been frustrating to be depressed and unbelieving among a bunch of fired-up, enthusiastic believers. It probably grates on him until finally he comes out with this ultimatum. Uses double negative, "*ou me,*" "by no means," will not believe unless this happens.
- C. V.26. A week later, so it is another Sunday evening. "Peace to you" is a common Hebrew greeting, but it is particularly appropriate for the Prince of Peace!
- D. V.27. The Lord is not upset. He just calls upon Thomas to do what he said. It was not unreasonable for Thomas to ask for just as much evidence as others claim to have before believing.
- E. V.28. Thomas does not seem to live up to his ultimatum: he believes when he sees the Lord. This was not an ejaculation! No honest doubt: he knew that the Lord = God!
- F. V.29. Seen = Greek *horao*, to perceive with the eyes. Next seen = *eidon*, to perceive with all the senses. In the Old Testament, people were expected to believe only after seeing. The disciples had seen plenty of signs. John certainly had! I John 1:1-2. Paul did as well, Acts 9:3-6. In our dispensation, God is creating a company of people who believe apart from any evidence of the senses. We are that company, and by Christ's words here, we are blessed indeed for believing without seeing!

IV. Conclusion: Thomas would not believe until he had seen the Lord risen from the dead with his own eyes. Today, God expects all of us to believe without seeing. We who do believe without seeing are happy indeed! The question for you is: are you willing to believe in the resurrection of Christ without seeing, just because God said so in the Bible? If so, you are blessed as well!