

Character Study: Thomas

From Doubt to Faith

Various Bible Passages

What's happening?

- The Apostle Thomas was referred to as the "Twin" (or "Didymus" in Greek). We do not have much information on his background. It appears that he had a twin, though Scripture tells us nothing about that sibling.
- Thomas could be viewed as a pessimist, though he was also a loyal and passionate follower of Christ. When Jesus prepared to go to Bethany to raise Lazarus from the dead, the Apostles feared for His safety, knowing the Jews sought to kill Him. Yet, Thomas felt they should all go and "die with him" (John 11:8, 14-16). Later, when Jesus explained that He was going to the Father and that they would join Him, Thomas answered out of concern, "How can we know the way?" (John 14:1-6)
- Thomas is mostly known for his reaction to hearing about the resurrection of Jesus. He was not present when Jesus first appeared to the other Apostles, and thus responded with doubt when hearing the news. However, eight days later when Jesus appeared again, He asked Thomas to see His hands and touch His side. Seeing and believing, Thomas responded in faith and stated, "My Lord and my God." (John 20:24-28)
- Many sources show that Thomas went on to take the gospel to Iran and India. There are even churches in India today that trace their roots back to the ministry of Thomas. It was in India where he also faced opposition, as he was killed by men with a spear and became a martyr for Christ.

What's God doing?

> Thomas had never wanted to be separated from the Lord, so after Jesus' death, he was devastated. The idea that Jesus had risen from the dead was more than he would emotionally and mentally accept without proof. Yet the Lord compassionately revealed Himself and removed any doubt.

What's to learn?

→ Thomas is remembered as "Doubting Thomas," but the other Apostles also doubted the resurrection at first (see [Mark 16:9-14](#)). It was, however, through his doubt that Jesus taught an important lesson. He said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). Doubt is rooted in unnecessary fear, whereas faith is based on what Christ has already revealed. God is not only pleased with, but also blesses, those who live by faith!