

## The Gift of Thomas

### Where was Thomas when Jesus appeared Easter Sunday?

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him,

"We have seen the Lord!"

### Yet later, he stubbornly refused to believe his fellow disciples

But he said to them,

"Unless I see the nail marks in his hands  
and put my finger where the nails were,  
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

### The next Sunday, Jesus appeared again to the gathering

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said,

"Peace be with you!"

Then he said to Thomas,

"Put your finger here; see my hands.  
Reach out your hand and put it into my side.

Stop doubting and believe."

### Thomas now responded with the strongest confession of any

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

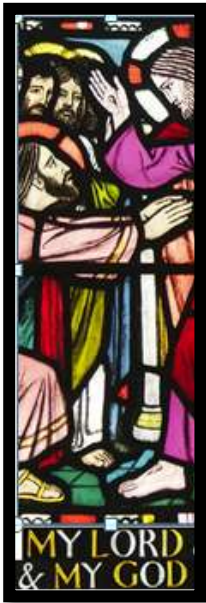
Then Jesus told him,

"Because you have seen me, you have believed;  
blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



Then Jesus he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands.  
Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

John 20:27



### What is the gift of Thomas?

Like a modern person, he demanded proof to believe  
Yet Jesus met all his demands exactly as given  
Even so, Jesus warned him: stop doubting & believe

### What can we learn from Thomas?

Jesus moves in and through the Sunday gathering  
In the end, our faith is more a choice than proof  
Jesus blesses those who believe without seeing



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The LORD yearns to be gracious to you; he rises to  
show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice.  
Blessed are all who wait for him! Isaiah 30:18

### The Commands of Jesus

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul  
and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.

Portions of Matthew 22:37-38



#### ART WORK CREDITS:

Page 1 Painting:: *The Incredulity of Thomas* by Caravaggio (wikipedia.org)  
Page 3 Painting: *Hands of Jesus and Thomas*; artist unknown (Victory Lutheran Church)  
Page 4 Stained Glass: Detail of *John 20:19-31* (HolyTextures.com)

But Thomas said: "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and  
put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side,  
I will not believe."  
John 20:25