

STUDY QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. Is Biblical faith a “blind leap?” Why or why not?
6. How can we live out this week what Thomas proclaimed about Jesus, “My Lord and My God!”?

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word “gospel” means “good news.” The Gospel, or good news, of Jesus Christ is that He did what no one could ever do. You see, God loves us, but ever since Adam and Eve sinned against God, every human being has sinned and therefore cannot come into God’s presence because He is holy and perfect. As much as we try, we cannot bridge the gap to God because of our sinful nature. We can never be good enough to reach God. Good works, religion, philosophy and morality all fall short of God’s perfection.

God loves us so much that He sent His Own Son, Jesus Christ, to bridge the gap (John 3:16). Jesus did what no one else could ever do because He is both God and human, born to Mary. He took upon Himself the punishment we deserve, dying on the cross in our place. Now, through a relationship with Jesus Christ, we can come before a holy God. That is the good news! We enter a relationship with Jesus by placing our faith and trust in Him and Him alone for our salvation. Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

The good news doesn’t end there. Not only can we have eternal life through Jesus, but we also now can live without being condemned because of sin. Jesus paid the price for our sins, and He lives within those who have placed their trust in Him. In Christ, not only have we secured our future in eternity with God, but we have the Holy Spirit living in us to help us today to live for Christ. For more information on how to know God, check our website at www.gbcmilescity.com.



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Small Group Study Guide
Pastor Phil Newby – April 15, 2018

SERMON NOTES

THE TWELVE DOUBTING THOMAS

FAST FACTS

- The Twelve Disciples were ordinary people that God chose to use in an _____ way.
- The Twelve Disciples had given up everything to follow Jesus, and were completely _____ by His death.
- No _____ are given about Thomas in Matthew, Mark, or Luke.
- What we know about Thomas we learn from three events in the Gospel of _____.

THE FIRST EVENT – THE DEATH OF LAZARUS (John 11) THOMAS THE BRAVE

John 11:16

Then Thomas (called “Twin”) said to his fellow disciples, “Let’s go too so that we may die with him.”

- Thomas had a nickname, _____, which is translated in English “Twin.”
- The disciples were convinced that if Jesus went to see Lazarus at Bethany, that Jesus would be _____.
- Thomas’ statement was pessimistic and brave, and it showed that Thomas had _____ enough in Jesus to be willing to die with Him. (See the cost of being a disciple in Luke 14:25-35)

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SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

THE SECOND EVENT – THE LAST SUPPER (John 13-14) THOMAS THE CONFUSED

John 14:5

“Lord,” Thomas said, “We don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”

- Jesus explained his imminent _____, still the Disciples were confused, and Thomas vocalized what they all were thinking.
- Thomas’ question set up the sixth _____ statement of Jesus in the Gospel of John, one of the most quoted verses in all the Bible.

THE THIRD EVENT – THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS (John 20) THOMAS THE SKEPTIC

John 20:25

²⁵So the other disciples were telling him, “We’ve seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

- Not being there, when the other Disciples told Thomas that they saw Jesus, Thomas said that he needed tangible _____.
- A week later, Jesus appeared to the Disciples with Thomas. Jesus, showing His _____, knew what Thomas had said.
- After seeing and touching Jesus’ scars, Thomas makes one of the Disciples’ greatest statements, _____!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THOMAS?

- Tradition says that Thomas took the Gospel to _____ and is called “The Apostle to the Orient,” going farthest of the Apostles.
- Tradition also says that Thomas was martyred, killed for his faith, by being run through with a _____.

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SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

TAKING IT IN

- If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then Christianity is _____.
- Thomas is a great example of an ordinary person who encountered the _____ Christ and had his life transformed and used by God!
- Unfairly called “doubting Thomas,” we do learn that doubt affects us all as it did all the Disciples. How can we overcome it?
 - We overcome doubt by resting on the _____ of the risen Christ.
 - We overcome doubt by studying God’s Word and asking the question, “_____?” and answering with “My Lord and My God!”

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe the personality of Thomas based on what we read in the Bible?
2. How do you relate to Thomas? How are you similar? Different?
3. Thomas was initially willing to die for Christ. What changed? How did his confusion play a part?
4. Apologetics is defending the faith by looking at the evidence. How did evidence play a part in Thomas overcoming doubt?

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