

Thomas

Disciple of Jesus

You might know him as “Doubting Thomas” because he refused to believe in Jesus Christ’s resurrection without first seeing Jesus – but Thomas was much more than this one label.

His Life as a Disciple

- Jesus called Thomas during His ministry in Galilee
- He actively participated in that ministry of traveling, preaching, and healing.
- Was sent out by Jesus along with the other disciples (Matthew 10:1-3)

He was willing to die for Jesus (John 11:16)

- His words are pessimistic, but they also show a deep commitment to following Jesus
- He revealed courage—a willingness to step forward despite fear for his own life.

His question about the way to the Father (John 14:5-6)

- Soon after the Last Supper, Thomas asked a question that showed that he still didn’t fully understand Jesus’ mission
- Jesus responded with one of His most well-known sayings (John 14:6)

His disbelief of the resurrection of Jesus (John 20:24-29)

- Was not present when Jesus first appeared to the other disciples after His resurrection (John 20:24)
- Refused to believe that Jesus had risen unless he could see Jesus’ wounds for himself (John 20:25)
 - These words earned him the name of “Doubting Thomas”
- Jesus appeared to Thomas 8 days after He appeared to the other disciples and offered for Thomas to feel His wounds (John 20:26). Thomas responded with words of faith (John 20:28)

After Jesus’ Ascension

- Was present in the Upper Room with the other disciples when they received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:13)
- Many believe he went as a missionary to Parthia (modern-day Iran) and India, where he was later allegedly martyred

Who He Was

- He was also called “Didymus,” which means “twin” in Greek (John 11:16)
- His profession is unknown, although he may have been a fisherman (John 21:2-3)
- There is no biblical evidence whether he was married or not
- He was a man of honesty, directness, and perhaps a little pessimism

Lessons From His Life

- Jesus saw the willingness in the heart of Thomas and patiently worked with his questioning and unbelief
 - This can encourage us that Jesus is working with us in our struggles, too
- Jesus doesn’t turn away our questions or leave us in our unbelief. Rather, He helps to strengthen our faith so that it becomes something deeper and more genuine
- We should accept and trust what God has said regardless of whether it seems possible (John 20:29)
- Just like Thomas, our struggles are part of the journey and can deepen our dedication to God