

## “Come and See: Encounters with the Risen Jesus” (3)

*From Doubt to Devotion*

(John 20:24–29)

**Introduction:** In our text this morning we come to the familiar story of “Doubting” Thomas. Thomas’s story shows us the risen Jesus meets honest skepticism with grace, turning Thomas’s doubts into a confession of faith.

### I. Doubt described:

#### A. The reports were in –

1. **There were at least five resurrection appearances** of our Lord on that first day of the week “resurrection Sunday” first to...
  - a. **Mary Magdalene** (John 20:11-18),
  - b. **Then to the other women** (Matt 28:9-10), Peter (1 Cor 15:5 and Luke 24:34),
  - c. **Then to the two Emmaus disciples** (Luke 24:13-32),
  - d. **And then to the disciples minus Thomas** (John 20:19-25).

#### B. The reluctance of Thomas - Isolation and doubt: Thomas missed the first appearance and demanded proof, saying “*Unless I see... I will never believe*” (John 20:25).

1. **Honest skepticism:** Doubt can be “*the raw side of honesty*” (Chuck Swindoll). Believers may pray “*I do believe; help my unbelief*” (Mark 9:24) or “*Lord, we do not know the way*” (John 11:16) to express uncertainty.
2. **Past commitment:** Recall Thomas’s earlier loyalty (“*Let us go die with Him*” – John 11:16). Even faithful people struggle at times.
3. **Empathy for doubt:** Jesus understands our weakness (Hebrews 4:15; cf. Psalm 13:1). We are invited to bring our honest questions to Him.

### II. Doubt dealt with:

#### A. A repeated scene -

1. **Peace and presence:** On Easter evening Jesus entered the locked room, greeting “*Peace be with you*” (John 20:19–20). His presence replaced their fear.
  - a. Eight days later, the scene is repeated
  - b. This time Thomas is present.
2. **Providing evidence:**
  - a. Jesus showed Thomas His wounds: “*Put your finger here... and do not disbelieve, but believe*” (John 20:26–27).
  - b. His scars (Isaiah 53:5) confirm His love and truth.
3. **Grace in action:** Nothing can keep Jesus out (Roman 10:17). We grow in faith by hearing God’s Word, even without physical sight (2 Cor. 5:7).
4. **Blessing faith:** Jesus then pronounced a blessing on believers: “*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed*” (John 20:29). We share in that blessing by trusting Him.

### III. Devotion declared:

#### A. Thomas’s immediate adoration –

1. Thomas responds with worship: “*My Lord and my God!*” (John 20:28) –
2. Recognizing Jesus as both his Master and God.

#### B. Jesus’ observation – (v. 29)

1. **Faith beyond sight:** This confession exemplifies faith. Like Thomas, we *believe without seeing* and yet “*love and believe*” (1 Peter 1:8).

#### Even among those who saw Jesus:

- *Some believed*
- *Some rejected Him*

#### Seeing is not the issue—trust is.

2. **Living by faith:** Our faith is personal and active. We “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7) and rejoice even in trials (John 20:30–31).
3. **Personal response:** Each of us can echo Thomas’s devotion. Declare Jesus as your own Lord and live in grateful obedience.

#### What we can learn from Thomas’s encounter with the risen savior:

- **Bring doubts to Jesus:** He welcomes honest questions (Mark 9:24; James 1:6). Pray for “*help my unbelief.*”
- **Stay connected:** Don’t face doubts alone. Worship and fellowship (Heb.10:25) with others for encouragement.
- **Anchor in God’s Word:** Let Scripture guide your faith. “*Faith comes by hearing the message*” (Rom. 10:17), so read the Gospels.
- **Respond personally to Christ:** Like Thomas, make Jesus *your* Lord. Proclaim “*My Lord and my God!*” and trust Him daily.

#### Conclusion:

Take a moment to silently affirm your faith in Christ.

Offer your questions to Jesus hold nothing back. He loves you – with scars if necessary – and offers *His peace* to all who seek Him. and rest in His promise: “*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed*” (John 20:29).

Let your honest faith grow from your honest doubts, and trust Jesus to turn them into devotion.