

TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE John 20:19-31

Appearances: Mary & women, Peter (afternoon), Emmaus (twd eve), disciples incl Thomas (19-25), wk later to disc incl Thomas (26-29).

I. Doubting Thomas, 20:19-25. (A). Setting, 19. Easter eve. Disciples includes more than apostles (Lk 24:33 incl women). Came tog. bec stories they heard during the day of res. Doors locked. Fearful bec Sanhedrin might go after them since news of empty tomb spreading. Jesus appeared thru doors or they opened for Him. No rebuke, peace.

(B). Proof, 20. Showed hands and side to prove same Jesus they saw at crucifixion. Convinced and rejoiced. No gradual acceptance of res. No manufactured stories to convince.

(C). Ramifications, 21-25. (1) Commission, 21. As Father involved suffering, being misunderstood, ridiculed, rejected, so with us. (2) New era-Gen 2:7 and earnest of new power of Acts 2. Jn 7:37-9 (3) New ministry to announce on earth what heaven determines. 23. Couldn't do this for sure in OT, Heb. 10:4. "whose" pl. to include all who bel and all who don't. When a person bel I can tell him that sins are forgiven.

(D). Thomas' reaction. Didymus=twin. To see for self. I will not bel (ou me) Hands (used of arm, Mt 4:6 and body, Acts 17:25). Nails were square spikes 5x7" Thru wrists, not palms. No bones or arteries pierced but major nerve severed with severe pain and spasms. Feet also nailed. Side (prob right) pierced and water and blood suddenly flowed. Death from rupture of heart, shock, exhaustion, asphyxiation, heart failure.

II. Believing Thomas, 26-28. Why T not there week ago? In anguish. Jn 11:16 then denied as Peter did.

(A.) X repeats T's words--omniscient.

(B.) X offers proof & sight, not touch, sufficient (cf. v 29).

(C). T's confession of faith, 28. Lord and God. =1:14, 18 and truth of predictions of res, Mk 8:31; 9:9, 31; 10:34; Jn 2:19. You have seen and believed (pf=completed and continuing-not a ? but a statement).

III. Blessed You and Me, 29b. Debating People. Beatitude. Thomas only need to hear and see. We cannot touch but can hear in Word, v.31 and see Him thru Word. Then bel. what? Jesus is Messiah, promised one and son of = God. Has to be personal faith ("my") and promise is life eternal. Concl. 27 "be not unbelieving, but bel."