



March 4, 2018

“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. Thomas said, ‘My Lord and my God!’”
Matthew 20:25b, 28

I. Defining Epiphany

- A. Epiphany = sudden occurrence, causing intuitive insight, that reveals a true meaning
- B. Easter is the moment of Epiphany for many
- C. There are many things that limit our ability to have An Easter Epiphany
- D. First is the presence of doubt. There is one disciple who is known for his doubt?

II. Describing Doubt

- A. Doubt is normal and doubt is real
- B. Faith is not the lack of doubt but overwhelming belief
- C. The two are opposite measures of the same thing (John 20:27)
 - 1. Doubt = a + pistos = acting and thinking as one who does not trust a truth
 - 2. Believe = pistos = acting and thinking as one who has confidence a truth
- F. Even the most faithful have doubts but they have MORE belief and act on that

III. Defeating Doubt

- A. Thomas has spoken with doubts before (John 11:16, 14:5,6)
- B. Thomas focuses on his own experience instead of his fellow disciples (John 20:25)
 - 1. Others – “We have seen the Lord” (John 20:20) – (Thomas missed the first encounter)
 - 2. Others – sharing their experiences with what Jesus said to them – He showed them his hands and side
 - 3. One week later... “Jesus stood among them” (John 20:26)
 - a. Proof – Entered through locked door - visual
 - b. Proof - Jesus spoke to them - auditory
 - c. Proof - Jesus addressed Thomas directly - personal
 - d. Proof - “put”...”see”...”put” – physical
- C. Thomas has An Easter Epiphany! (John 20:28) “My Lord and My God”
- D. Easter requires a huge step of faith – an epiphany! (John 20:29)

IV. Disciples Defeat Doubt

- A. The disciples became Martyrs of the faith
- B. They carried many proofs with them (John 20:30)
 - 1. The physical evidences of the resurrection
 - 2. Their eye-witness accounts
 - 3. The power and presence of the Holy Spirit
- C. We have some proofs that they did not have! (John 20:31)
 - 1. The whole Bible – the “long view” of God’s plan
 - 2. The emergence of the church – the transformation of Paul
- D. Are you still doubting like Thomas?
- E. “Stop doubting - Start believing”