**R951\_Rumination for Apr. 16, 2023 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **Thomas**  [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext:***Thomas****, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.* John 20:24:

The **T**hots:

Intro: Jesus’ **A**ppearance to His Disciples in the **A**bsence of Thomas. Jn. 20:24

 *Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week… came Jesus* Jn. 20:19

 *and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*

 *But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.* Jn. 20:24

 Jesus’ **R**eappearance to the Eleven (without Judas) a week after His **R**esurrection. Jn. 20:26

*And after eight days again His disciples were within, and* [this time] *Thomas with them:*

 *then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.*

1. **The Character of Thomas:**
2. He was a **D**isciple ---*the names of the twelve apostles are…Thomas, and Matthew…* Mt. 10:2-4
3. He was a **D**evoted Disciple – *Then said Thomas…Let us also go, that we may die with Him*. Jn. 11:16
4. Note his **A**ffection for the Master – *Let us go…*
5. His **A**ttachment to the Master *– that we may die with Him.* NKJV
6. He was a **D**iffident Disciple. Jn. 14:5
7. He **M**isunderstood the **M**aster.
8. He Understood only the **M**aterial and Physical. Jn. 11:12, 13, 16; 14:4, 5-7
9. He was a **D**espondent Disciple – *Thomas…was not with them when Jesus came*. Jn. 20:24
10. His Master had **D**ied in spite of His **P**erson.
11. His Hopes were **D**ashed in spite of His **P**romises.
12. He was completely **D**ejected in his **P**revious experiences
13. **The Concern for Thomas:**
14. By the Disciples - *Thomas was not with them…*; *Thomas with them…* Jn. 20:24, 26
15. By the Lord – *Then saith He to* ***Thomas****…* Jn. 20:27

Cp. *go your way, tell His disciples* ***and Peter***. Cf. Mt. 16:7

1. **The Conditions of Thomas. Jn. 20:25**
2. The **D**escription of His **D**emands.
3. He wanted to **S**ee the **S**ight of *the nail prints in His hands;*
4. He wanted to **F**eel with His **F**ingers those *nail prints.*
5. He wanted to **T**ouch with, and **T**hrust his Hand into, His **S**pear-wounds in His **S**ide.
6. The **D**anger of Such **D**emands
7. It may be **P**resumptuous – Godward
8. **S**uspect not God – *Do not test the Lord your God…* Deut. 6:16, HCSB
9. **S**trive not against God - *Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker!* Isa. 45:9, 10
10. **S**tretch not God’s hand - *Jesus told him, “Do not test the Lord your God”* Mt. 4:6, 7, HCSB
11. **S**in not against God – *Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins;* Psa. 19:
12. It may be **P**erilous – Faithward – *become faithless!* Cf. Jn. 20:27
13. Faith **S**aved us. Eph. 2:8, 9
14. Faith **S**ustains us. II Cor. 5:7
15. Faith will **S**ee us through. II Cor. 4:16-18
16. **The Challenge to Thomas. Jn. 20:25, 27**

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| **1. The Demands of Thomas**. (Jn. 20:25) | **2. The Commands of Jesus.** (Jn. 20:27) |
| *Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails**and put my finger into the print of the nails* | *Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands* |
| *and thrust my hand into His side* | *Reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side* |
| *I will not believe.* | *and be not faithless, but believing.* |

**3. The Declarations of the Wounds:**

1. They were the **M**arks of His Death.
2. They were the **M**eans of His Identity.
3. They were the **M**emorials of His Love.
4. **The Confession of Thomas – *Thomas answered and said…My Lord and my God.* Jn. 20:28**
5. A **C**onfession of the Divini**ty** of Christ – Acknowledging His **O**mnipotence and **O**mniscience.
6. A **C**onfession of the Sovereign**ty** of Christ –

 It **R**esulted in **R**estoration of Faith and Bringing about a **R**evolution in Life.

**Con**. The Blessing of Faith without Seeing – Jn. 20:29

1. The **B**lessing of Faith – ***b****lessed are they that have not seen, and yet have* ***b****elieved.* Jn. 20:29
2. The **B**liss of Faith – *Whom having not seen, ye love…ye rejoice…* I Pet. 1:8
3. The **B**eauty of Faith – *How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel…* Rom. 10:14, 15

*O Savior, make Thy presence known To all who doubt Thy Word and Thee;*

*And teach them in that Word alone To find the truth that sets them free* William Bright

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 951**

1. Thomas doubted the reappearance of Jesus after His death and resurrection.

He could not believe that the Master He loved for Whom He was ready, even to sacrifice his life for, had died and yet could live again!

Earlier He had heard from Jesus that their good friend, Lazarus had died. He misunderstood the statement and immediately responded, John 11:16 (NKJV)

*Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."* He had expected Jesus to die as predicted by Jesus Himself.

But later when Jesus was crucified, together with the other disciples, Thomas and the other disciples must have fled the scene as Matthew recorded – *But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook Him, and fled.* (Mt. 26:56)

However, apparently Apostle John must have returned to the scene where Jesus commissioned him to take care of Mary, and for her to commit herself to his care.

John 19:25-27 – *Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple* [John] *standing by, whom He loved, He saith unto His mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith He to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto His own home.*

 Thomas could also have returned to the crucifixion scene to witness the cruel sufferings that Jesus went through. Thus, when he was told that the other disciples had seen a risen Jesus Who had appeared to them, he just could not believe his ears. No, he must see Him literally with his eyes, so he averred:

John 20:25 – *The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord.*

*But he said unto them, Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe*.

The next Lord’s Day, the Lord appeared before the ten disciples again, and this time with Thomas among them, and challenged him condition for condition to accept what He challenged the Lord with. He was so overwhelmed, the least he could do was to kneed down and confess Him thus. Do read the wonderful record of this meeting:

Jn. 20:26-28 – *After eight days again His disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing.*

*And Thomas answered and said unto him,* ***My Lord and my God.***

Today is the eighth day after our celebration of Resurrection Sunday. Can we also make the same confession as Thomas did, not only for the day, but also in our life?

 **REFLECT**

1. However, supplementing the above episode were the words of our Lord with special application to all generations after this time. It applies to those living after the Lord’s time who had no opportunity or occasion to see Him face to face. We could only trust the words that we read in the scriptures and believe in faith what the Lord Himself promises in particular reference to us in the generations that followed His until this very day – He promised:

John 20:29-31 *– Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed:* ***blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed****…But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;*

*and that believing ye might have life through His name.* Haveyou believed? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder: *T****homas wanted to* ***T****ouch Him to Believe Him* ***T****rue;*

 *We just need to* ***T****rust Him for Him to change us anew!*