

This Changes Everything

Reading - John 20: 24 - 31



Introduction

For whatever reason Thomas had not been with the other disciples when Jesus had come to them. He wants physical evidence for himself and famously says that unless he sees and touches he will not believe. A week later all the disciples were together, still behind locked doors, but Jesus stands amongst them saying - Peace be with you.

Jesus invites Thomas to do what he wanted, to touch his hands and side. To stop doubting and believe. It appears that Thomas need to now. In the presence of the Risen Lord his doubts dissolve and he makes a deep confession of Christ as Lord and God.

Jesus pronounces a blessing on those who believe without seeing. We are invited to have a faith that does not depend on physical sight. As the writer of Hebrews was to put: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see (Hebrews 11.1).

Discussion Starters

- Do you think doubts can be a good thing? How?
- Can you imagine the kind of person that Thomas was? What do you think he felt?
- Consider the profound confession of faith - My Lord and my God. What is he saying? What confession of faith would you like to use?
- Jesus blesses those who have faith without physical sight. Do you think it's more difficult for us to believe? Can we have a greater assurance?

Prayer time

Please pray for needs that are known or shared. Please also pray for people that have doubts and questions, that they might find genuine answers.