

## Lesson C. How Doubters Become Believers:

### **Peter's Faith In Christ Was Like The Waves He Walked On; He Soon Learned That Doubting Christ Makes Life Difficult**

Matt 14:25-33 “...when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spoke unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it is you, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him ...” There are always things that boasts itself against faith, that we must be aware of or we may also begin to sink.

**John 20:24** *But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 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. There are a couple of things I would like to point out in these verses:* Thomas was one of the Apostles that spent 3.5 years in fellowship with Jesus and the other Apostles but when Jesus visited the assembling of the righteous, Thomas wasn't there and John wanted us to understand this.

**Heb 10:25** *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.* Thomas missed church and when he did he missed the visitation of Jesus Christ. Thomas could have grown faster if he had been in the church service but instead he wasted 8 days wondering around confused not knowing that Christ had risen from the dead. When he was told that he had missed the visitation of Christ he said I don't believe it. And unless “*I put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.*”

Have you ever noticed that some of the best church services took place when you were not there? Not because you were not there but because every church service has something to offer the soul. People start saying, “You should have been there to witness the power and glory of God. We had a great service.”

## **2. What Thomas didn't know is that Jesus heard every word he had said.**

Even though Jesus wasn't physically present in his glorified body he knew exactly what Thomas felt, understood and said. The bible said Jesus loved Thomas and doesn't wish for anyone to be doubter. Eight days later the Apostles, the righteous students of Christ were assembled together as the bible teaches. Thomas didn't miss church this time he was right there.

*John:20:26 And 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. 27 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.* Notice that Jesus greeted everyone by saying "peace be unto you." The very next thing he did was look straight at Thomas and said. "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side:" Why did Christ do this? Because Thomas had his doubts, he was as the bible tells us "faithless". That sounds harsh but it was said for a reason maybe even a rebuke.

## **3. Jesus loved Thomas and addressed his doubts.**

It was important that Jesus show himself to the Apostles to remove their doubts concerning the gospel of the kingdom. Christ in his wonderful grace and mercy wished to leave no one out therefore Thomas had to understand the gospel of the kingdom could not be preached without the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus will always reveal himself to those that he calls to salvation even if we doubt.

Thomas went to the assembly of the church as an unbeliever and came out of church with a new revelation of God. It is in the church that God will bring about revelations taking us from faith to faith. Thomas remembered what Christ had said unto him before the cross and he put it all together as he said. *John 14:5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*

Thomas knew that Jesus had not been there to hear his doubtful statement and the disciples had not seen Jesus since that time. He knew that no one could have told Jesus what he had said. Now he realized that Jesus was God manifested in the flesh

as he was omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscience and he called Jesus. “My Lord and my God.”

28. *And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.* It took this revelation for Thomas to recognize Jesus as God. “My Lord and my God” A doubter turned in a believer. The only God that Thomas would ever see was standing before him. **Paul said:** *Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

Jesus saith unto him, “*Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*” Remember when Jesus called Thomas “*faithless*” because he had to see before he would believe. At the Christian Lighthouse Church we believe without seeing and we are greatly blessed. Those of you that believed and made Jesus Christ your Lord and God will receive blessings that the Apostles never received. We have not seen Jesus face to face as Thomas but we have believed as though we have. It takes greater faith to believe without seeing.

#### **4. We see Thomas again in the next Chapter.**

**Once again we find Thomas fellowshiping with the righteous.** *John 21:1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself. 2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. 3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.*

When Jesus is absent from a person’s life that life is incomplete, there is loneliness even though you have a close family, frustration even though great accomplishments have been obtained, and the people feel as though they are at a loss. After fishing all night the nets were empty and a person comes, they were seeking after the wrong thing and came up short. But when Jesus comes to the party he instructs us and we are complete, frustration vanishes away, and loneliness melts as ice when the sun shines through. *4. But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.* We need Jesus more than anything.

*“Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.”* We should always be near to Jesus to make our lives full of value to self and others.

Jesus said when the righteous are gathered together he would be there, therefore fellowship in the church will be blessed by his presence as these men. Jesus loves to visit when two or more of his disciples gather together in his name.

Such as it the case found in Acts chapter 8 a man was traveling and reading the word of God, he was confused and didn't understand the scriptures. With all the millions of people on earth God noticed that single hungry soul; in any case Jesus had made this promise to every hungry soul. *"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."* Now the Lord will send someone for this spiritual hungry traveler to assemble with.

God called Phillip *"full of the Holy Ghost"* sending him to help this spiritual hungry man and God had also prepared a pool of water in the desert to fulfill his promise; All of which came together for the purpose of one soul being saved. Phillip met the traveler and explained that the scripture was about Christ dying for our sins. When the traveler asked if he could be baptized Phillip said if you believe with all your heart. Bur of course those that are hungry gladly receive the word of faith and the traveler was baptized in the name of the Lord.

Jesus loves every single person and wants all men to come to the knowledge of truth. He loves people and wishes to take all doubts away concerning salvation. He sends his witnesses as he did Phillip to help those that hunger for righteousness. He said I am the way, the truth, and the life. It is up to us to believe with all our hearts and not doubt. Jesus said I am the door; it is up to us to go through that door and it is our decision to say yes to Jesus. Will we believe Christ when he said, *"he that hath seen me hath seen the Father"*? Will we confess as Thomas when he understood the mystery of godliness and say *"My Lord and my God"*?

When we inter the presence of the Lord we enter the blessings of the Lord. Peace he offers and joy that is unspeakable as our faith in him leads us to do his will. Faith brings freedom to walk in places that doubts will keep us from. Trusting in Christ as Phillip did will bring a great revival such as found in Acts the eight chapter.

1. **Matt 14:25 –33** Peter walked on the sea. *"But when he saw the wind \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ he was afraid; and beginning to sink"*
2. **Matt 14:25-33** *Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou \_ \_ \_ \_ \_?*
3. **John 20:24-25** ***"Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 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, **A. I will believe; B. I will believe any way; C. I will know he is still in the grave. D I will not believe.**

4. What did Thomas forsake that we must not? **Heb 10:25 A. Football games. B. The assembling of ourselves together. C. Visiting old friends; D. Buying groceries.**
5. **John 14: 7** If ye had known \_\_\_, ye should have known my \_\_\_\_\_ also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have \_\_\_\_\_ him.
6. **John 14:8** Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the \_\_\_\_\_, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not \_\_\_\_\_, Philip? he that hath \_\_\_\_\_ me hath seen the \_\_\_\_\_; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?
7. “Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore” If they had doubted and not did what Christ had told them they would not have drawn in the multitude of fish. Check whether this answer is True \_\_\_ or False \_\_\_
8. from the last Paragraph of this lesson fill in the blanks: When we enter the presence of the Lord we enter the blessings of the Lord. Peace he offers and joy that is unspeakable as our faith in him leads us to do his will. Faith brings \_\_\_\_\_ to walk in places that \_\_\_\_\_ will keep us from. Trusting in Christ as Phillip did will bring a great \_\_\_\_\_ such as found in Acts the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter.