

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1254

February 10, 2019

Matthew 24:23-24, “²³Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here [is] Christ, or there; believe [it] not. ²⁴For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

In the above verses Jesus warned that there would be people claiming to be Christ who were not. We see at the beginning of Matthew 24 Jesus was with his disciples. No doubt his apostles were there or at least were told these words at some time. It was very important that they know there would be claims of Christ that were false.

While my wife Ruby was doing her daily Bible readings, she pointed out something I had not considered. It's little wonder that Thomas later questioned that the others had seen Jesus. He would have heard these words warning of false Christs. As soon as someone had said they had seen Jesus after His death, Thomas might well have had these words of warning come into his mind. He might have wondered, “Could this be a false Christ?”

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Sunday 9 AM & 4 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

I think we are sometimes a little unfair to have labeled Thomas “doubting.” He would have been wary of someone telling him that Jesus was alive when Jesus had plainly told his disciples regarding false Christ to “believe him not” when someone claimed to be Christ. Of course Thomas was mistaken and this was indeed Jesus who had risen from the dead.

Thomas might also have questioned if this was truly Jesus because it seems Thomas was a twin. The name “Thomas” means “a twin.” In John 11, 20, and 21 Thomas is also called “Didymus” which is from a Greek word that means double or twin. With Thomas no doubt being a twin, he might have wondered if the others had simply seen someone who looked like Jesus. If Thomas's twin was identical, he would have been used to seeing someone who was like himself, but not him. This would have made him hesitant to believe that the others had indeed seen Jesus.

Another passage lets us know how true to the LORD Thomas was is found in John 11. Lazarus had died and Jesus along with his apostles were going to where he had died. They were concerned about Jesus returning into Judea. John 11:7-8, “⁷Then after that saith he to [his] disciples, Let us go into Judaea again. ⁸[His] disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?”

They truly had concern for the safety of Jesus when he returned to Judea. Regarding Lazarus, Jesus plainly said in John 11:15, “... let us go unto him.” Knowing the dangers that had just been mentioned, we are then told in John 11:16, “Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.” Perhaps throughout history people have been somewhat too harsh calling Thomas doubting. Very few would have quickly said they were willing to go die with the LORD.

Thomas was not with the others on the very first LORD's day. John 20:24, “But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was

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News

—Continue to remember **Jean Coffey, Alice Thrasher, Steve Seaton, and Leon Seaton, Denise Miller**, the sister of Sharon Franklin. **Sandy Duncan** is now home recovering from knee replacement surgery. **Larry Compton** is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on March 1. **Shirley Parson** is home following surgery on a blocked artery in her neck. **Erin Davis** had surgery this past Friday for the implant in her back to relieve pain. She is recovering at home.

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not with them when Jesus came.” The other disciples told Thomas in John 20:25, “. . . *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.*” Thomas did not believe the others. He wanted physical evidence. As an apostle he would have been aware of the teaching of Jesus that He would arise again. This was difficult for Thomas to believe when others told him they had indeed seen the LORD.

A full week passed before the next verse. I wonder what all had gone through the mind of Thomas during this week. He did not see Jesus during this week and had much time to think about what the others had told him. In John 20:26 we are told, “*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.*” Thomas was with them this time. He did not miss this LORD’s day gathering as he had the first one.

John 20:27-28, “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.* ²⁸*And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.*” Upon seeing and touching the scars of the crucifixion that Jesus had, Thomas then believed.

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Sunday, February 3, 2019

Classes	16	Hebrews 10:27-39
Preaching	24	Philippians 4:1-9
Contribution	\$791.00	
Evening	13	Singing - Psalm 63:1-11

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Classes	10	I Chronicles 29:1-30
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Bible Quiz

Our days on the earth are as what?

Last Week’s Answer— He had been a man of war and shed blood. (I Chronicles 28:3)

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John 20:29, “*Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed [are] they that have not seen, and [yet] have believed.*” This includes us. We have not seen Jesus, though we will. We are blessed because we have not seen, but yet believe. No doubt, Thomas was never hesitant to believe after this point. We also should never be hesitant to believe. Our faith will be sight after this life.

—Marty Edwards❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)