

Was Thomas' Dedication Really in Doubt?

- Thomas – Nothing from Matthew, Mark, or Luke other than he was named as an apostle
 - Paired with Matthew/Levi
 - Listed 8th in Mark & Luke, 7th in Matthew
 - Called the Twin (Didymus) – Jn. 11:16
 - Likely had a twin sibling—no indication who it was (seemingly not anyone recorded in Scripture)
 - No detailed account of his being called by Jesus (e.g., Philip, Nathanael), but Jesus selected the 12 from among all disciples
- Jn. 11:16 – “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”
 - Realization that Jesus faced danger and could be killed; No fear on Thomas' part
 - Chief characteristic: Willing to follow Jesus wherever, regardless of cost
 - No intent to ever desert, even if it meant his own death
 - Jn. 11:15 – “that you may believe”
 - Thomas clearly believed
- Jn. 14:5 – “We don't know where you're going, and how can we know the way?”
 - Jn. 14:1-4 – Father's house, many mansions, preparing place for them... What did apostles really know?
 - What should they have known?
 - Jesus spoke positively about where He was going... Was Thomas positive?
 - Sometimes we miss what Jesus says because of our own preconceived notions...
 - Thomas was ready to die with Him... Now wants to be sure he can continue to follow Him wherever.
 - Thomas sought deeper truth, wanted to understand.
 - No followup question from Thomas recorded after 14:6
- Jn. 20:24-29 – “Doubting” Thomas
 - 24 – Thomas absent when Jesus appeared to 10 on Resurrection Day
 - Unknown reason: mourning, fear of Jews (Jn. 11), refusal (?)
 - 25 – “Unless I see... I will never believe!”
 - Disciples had been mistaken before - Mt. 14:25-26
 - Thomas wanted same evidence the 10 had seen.
 - Any different from Peter & John? Jn. 20:1-8
 - Desire to test truth with evidence – Acts 17:11
 - Shows apostles didn't jump to unreasonable unfounded conclusion that Jesus was raised
 - 27 – “Reach your finger here.” – Jesus knew what Thomas had said.
 - 27 – “Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” – Gentle rebuke
 - 28 – “My Lord and my God!”
 - Not a mere exclamation (as is common today), which would be taking Lord's name in vain (said TO Him)
 - Only person in NT to address Jesus as GOD
 - 29 – Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed – 2 Pet. 1:8