

“Blessed are they who did not see, and yet still believe.”

(John 20:24-29)

This morning we want to begin a series of lessons in pursuit of the “blessed life.” The word blessed is used in some form over 400 times in the Bible. It is a word that means to rejoice and be happy.

How do we gain access to this kind of life at the highest level? Jesus provides one answer in a conversation with His follower Thomas. Thomas learned firsthand that the quest for the blessed life starts with belief that Jesus was raised from the dead.

I. Why did Thomas believe (John 20:24-29)?

A. Facts about Thomas:

1. He was an **apostle** of Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:1-4). Thomas would travel and spent much time with Jesus during His 3 year ministry.
2. He was **a fisherman** by trade who lived around the Sea of Galilee.
3. He was a **twin**. That is what “Didymus” means (John 11:16).
4. He was loyal and devoted to Jesus (John 11:16).
5. He is called **doubting Thomas** today. That is unfortunate, because all of the apostles initially doubted the resurrection of Jesus (Luke 24:10-11)

B. Have you ever dealt with doubt like Thomas?

1. You ever doubt where you came from (Genesis 1:1, 26)?
2. You ever doubt that the Bible is God’s word (2 Timothy 3:16)?
3. You ever doubt the reality of heaven and hell (Matthew 25:46)?

C. Lessons about dealing with doubt from Thomas:

1. It wasn’t a **sin** for Thomas to **doubt**.
2. Jesus supplied the **evidence** needed for Thomas to overcome his doubt (John 20:27).
3. Thomas had an **honest** heart and **accepted** the evidence (John 20:28).

II. Why should we believe?

A. Jesus says we are blessed if we believe in His resurrection even though we haven’t seen it with our eyes (John 20:29b). Paul makes a similar point in 2 Corinthians 5:7.

B. Why should we believe though?

1. Because of blind faith? No! Jesus didn’t expect this from Thomas, and he doesn’t from us as well (John 20:27). See also John 10:37-38.
2. God wants us to believe because we have carefully considered the **evidence** (John 20:30-31; Luke 1:1-4).
3. What is the evidence?
 - a. The **testimony** of the eye-witnesses (Luke 1:1-4; John 21:24; 2 Peter 1:16-18).
 - b. The **changed lives** of the apostles (Luke 22:54-62; John 20:19; Acts 2:36).
 - c. The **motive** for preaching the resurrection. No money. No fame (1 Corinthians 4:23).
 - d. The terrible **deaths** suffered.

Conclusion: The way to properly process doubts is to carefully **examine** the evidence that is supplied and **accept it** with an **honest heart** !