

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

April 27, 2015

I won't believe it

JOHN 20:24-29 NKJV – (24) Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. (25) The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." (26) And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" (27) Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." (28) And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed."

It is easy, perhaps, to think less of the Disciple named Thomas. When we hear of him, we often think of the well-known phrase "Doubting Thomas." We remember the story of how he doubted the other disciples, when they told him that Jesus was alive! We wonder what kind of man would doubt the Resurrection of Christ, even after his friends told him they had seen Jesus alive again. We hear him stubbornly saying "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

We forget that just a few chapters earlier in the Gospel of John, it was Thomas who showed great courage by insisting that all the disciples go with Jesus to Bethany, although it was dangerous for them to do so. John credits Thomas with having said "Let us also go, that we may die with him." This is a far cry from the more familiar "*Unless I see the nail marks... I will not believe.*" Perhaps it is not wise for us to look back at Thomas with contempt. It is probably much more prudent for us to look back and wonder quietly what we would have said, if faced with the same situation.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 11:40

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Faith is believing in something when common sense tells you not to.

