

## **Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide**

Jesus Encounters Thomas – John 20:24-29

8/16/2023

### **Passage Summary**

In this section of Scripture Jesus encounters Thomas. John uses Jesus' encounter with Thomas to call upon all those who have not personally seen Jesus to fully believe in Jesus.

Take a few moments and read John 20:24-29

*<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin,<sup>[d]</sup> was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."*

*<sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

### **Discussion Questions**

**Question:** Thomas is commonly known as "doubting Thomas." We know that he both struggled with belief, and yet also wanted to be with Jesus. While this reputation might cause us to look down on him, why should we give Thomas grace in our thinking toward him and be thankful for the role he plays in the gospel of John?

### **PERSONAL CARE OF JESUS**

**Question:** How did Jesus show personal care toward "doubting Thomas?" How might this help us to be comforted by Jesus personal care for us?

### **NECESSARY LORDSHIP OF JESUS**

**Question:** Thomas clearly recognized and personalized the truth that Jesus was his LORD and God. How can we demonstrate practically that we believe Jesus is our Lord and our God?

### **JOYFUL SOLIDARITY OF JESUS**

**Question:** Why did Jesus draw Thomas' attention to the scars on His side? Why is this significant?

**Question:** Considering how Jesus, in his humanity, joyfully embraces suffering (Heb 10:32-34), how might that help us to rightly think about our own “scars?”

### **URGENT CALL OF JESUS**

**Question:** In verse 29, Jesus calls for us to believe in him, though we have not seen him. This harmonizes with what Peter says in I Peter 1:8. We are sometimes tempted to look for signs and confirmations about Jesus in addition to what he has given to us. What are some specific ways people might look to do this?

**Question:** How do we build up our belief in Jesus without relying on sight or signs?