

Oceanside Connect Group Outline
Week of October 25th 2015



Key Scripture

John 20:24-29, ESV

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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.”

²⁶ 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.**” ²⁷ 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.**” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ 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 from this week’s sermon

The perspective of a situation can turn the truth or facts of a story on its head. **Can you think of a story in your own life when this has happened?**

Why do you think Thomas was not in the room when Jesus first appeared to the disciples?

Eight days after Thomas’ refusal to believe what the others had told him, Jesus showed up. Nothing else is recorded in this encounter other than Jesus’ self-revelation and reassuring of Thomas. **What is the significance of that and what hope can we ourselves find in this scripture?**

In our walk with Jesus, **do we have testimonies of Jesus conquering our unbelief? What have they been in your own life?**

Jesus asked Thomas to place his hands in Jesus’ wounds. **Why do you think Jesus went this far? Do you think that Thomas proceeded to do it?**

Thomas’ reaction in verse 28 is one of the highest affirmations of Jesus’ true identity in the gospels. **Should we remember him as “doubting Thomas”? What about his show of faith in John 11:16?**

It’s strange that in John 11:16 Thomas showed great faith but here he had doubted. **How and why did his faith seem to fluctuate? Are we ourselves also familiar with “fluctuations” in our faith?**

Sometimes we can dream about how different it would be to become a Christian in the light of physically being around Jesus like the disciples were. **What affirmation do we see for ourselves and do you think Jesus is saying in verse 29?**

Take Home

We see Jesus in these passages meeting His disciple, Thomas, where he was at. **Will God do the same for us? Can we take courage in God reaching out to us?**

Can Jesus seek out and dispel the doubts within our walk with him? How could we live this out?