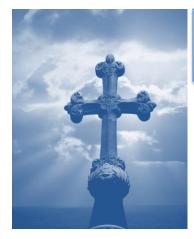
## **Thomas**

"They were Called"



"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:29

"I guess I'll always be known as the doubter because of one time that I doubted Jesus. I just didn't think that He could have been treated like that and that He could not have healed Himself like He had healed so many others. I don't think any of us fully understood at that time that He had to come to earth as a human and then He had to die as a human for our sins. I am Thomas, and I had seen Jesus heal the lepers. I had seen Him give sight to a man who had been blind from birth. I saw Him make

the lame walk.

"I was always curious, but I wasn't always a doubter. We traveled with Him to many towns and saw the wonderful love He was talking about. Then sometimes He would talk with us and try to tell us what was going to happen and where He was going to go. But we didn't understand. Many things were going on and people were gathering at every place we went with Him to hear Him speak and heal.

"One day when Jesus told us that He was going to Bethany to raise Lazarus from the dead. The other disciples told Him not to go because they thought it was too dangerous. I wasn't afraid because I was confident we would be all right because we were with Him. I said 'Let us go also, that we may die with Him.'

"Shortly after the Resurrection of Jesus, He appeared to the other disciples. I was not there at the time, and when I arrived they all said 'We have seen the Lord.' I said 'Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe.' I don't know what I didn't believe. I think I still believed in Him as Jesus, but I didn't understand how He could have risen from His grave and come back to life. When he appeared a few days later, he said 'Peace be with you' to all of us. Then He approached me and said 'Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side, do not be faithless, but believing.' I could only answer 'My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to me 'Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

"I never doubted again but set out to many lands to tell about my wonderful Saviour. Won't you join me in spreading His Word? You may have periods of doubt, but they will be doubting from yourself. He will be constant always. Jesus didn't scold me, but He did ask me to believe, to go to Him in faith.

"As a result of my questioning, many people are called 'doubting Thomas.' I can't say that I am proud of that distinction, but I can say that it is no longer true and doesn't have to be true for anyone. I wasn't there the first time the others met with Christ after His resurrection, so I doubted my fellow disciples also. Peter tried to reassure me that it was true, but sometimes I saw the glass half empty instead of half full. You know that Christ is who He said He was. He is the 'great I Am.' And most importantly, He loves us despite our doubts."

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your witness to the disciples at the time. Thank You for giving Your life on Calvary so that we might have eternal life. Dear Father, just as You gave them Your Holy Spirit, help us to recognize that we also have that gift and help our doubts to be turned into positives. In Thy name we pray. Amen.

- 1. Are we like Thomas? Do we ever doubt?
- 2. Is it all right to doubt?
- 3. How can we show the world that we love Jesus? And that we believe in him?
- 4. Do you see a glass half full or half empty?
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