

Remnant Life Church
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Thomas
Matthew 7:1-5

- This disciple, like all the others except for Judas Iscariot, born and raised in the Galilee region
- Thomas was his Hebrew name; Didymus was his Greek name
 - Didymus was not actually a name but a description
 - It meant twin – (John 11:16)
- A fisherman by trade
 - Not of the same group that included Peter, John, etc... since they are identified but he is never mentioned in that group
 - Very likely that they would have known or at least been familiar with each other
- The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke as well as the book of Acts list him in the 12
 - Only John gives an account of his life with Jesus
- What we know of him is primarily with regard to his faith
 - A man of strong conviction both with and without faith

His time with Jesus from John's gospel

- **John 11:8** – the disciples expressed concern over Jesus wanting to go to Judaea when He got word about Lazarus
 - **John 11:16** – Thomas says that the disciples should go with Him despite the danger
- **John 14:4** – Jesus tells His disciples He is going away to prepare a place for them
 - **John 14:5** – Thomas says that they do not know where He is going so how can they know the way
 - And it is to this question Jesus answers with the great truth of the Christian's hope and belief when He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the light no one comes to the Father but by me." (John 14:6)
- **John 20:25** – Thomas tells the others that unless he sees Jesus, he will not believe that He has risen
 - **John 20:28** – Thomas makes the bold declaration, "My Lord and my God."

Thomas, I believe, is unfairly known for his doubting heart, because he also showed a strength of conviction when shown his error

- The life of Thomas is similar to a photograph
 - When the shutter on the camera clicks, a moment in the timeline of the subject is preserved
 - But the subject moves on – it does not remain in the place that was recorded
- Thomas had a moment of doubt that lasted one week
 - For three years prior to that he was a faithful disciple of Jesus willing to die with Him (at least at that time since he, too, ran in the Garden when Jesus was arrested)
 - And for the rest of his life following the resurrection he preached about Jesus and planted churches

- Also, see clearly (perhaps for the first time) where the doubt was placed
 - Thomas is not recorded as doubting the power of Jesus to be resurrected
 - He does not question Jesus when he does see Him
 - He falls at his feet and worships Him
 - He is doubting the reports of the disciples

His time after Jesus

- Scholars place him in Babylon after the disciples scattered
- He helped to establish the first church in that region
- Later missionary journeys take him to India where he spent the majority of his post-disciple years
- It was in that region that he was martyred
 - Extra-biblical writings say that he was killed with a spear
 - At the advanced age of 87

What can we learn from this somewhat obscure, and unjustly branded man?

- We must be careful about determining who a person is based on their appearance or limited information
- People easily sit in judgment of other people with very limited information
- We make statements of finality based on what we conclude regarding an action or event