

Not Him, the Other Guy

Thomas

(John 11:1-16)

- Introduction:
1. If I were to ask you who was the bold disciple who said he would die for Jesus, most people would answer, "Peter."
 2. Of course, that would be true, but I'm not talking about him, I'm talking about the other guy, "Thomas."
 3. Sometimes we unfairly associate people with what might be an anomaly in their lives, an exception rather than the rule of their life.
 4. When it comes to Thomas, he is not known as Thomas the disciple, or Thomas the faithful, but rather "Doubting Thomas."
 5. However, Thomas doesn't deserve that moniker.
 6. After a closer examination of the text, we might decide that "Doubting Thomas," might be better dubbed, "Willing Thomas."

I. Thomas Was Willing to Risk His Life

- A. (John 11:1-16).
- B. The disciples were reluctant to go with Jesus to Bethany.
- C. However, it was Thomas who was willing to die for Jesus and who encouraged boldness in the other disciples (compare Matthew 26:35).
- D. There was something that Thomas has learned about Jesus through the past few years that would make him willing to forfeit his life in order to stand by his side.

II. Thomas Was Willing to Ask Questions

- A. (John 14:1-6).
- B. Our perspective (2000 years after the fact) on the words of Jesus help to make clear for us, what must have been confusing to the first century disciples.
- C. Thomas didn't understand, so he asked an honest question.
- D. Jesus didn't rebuke or ridicule Thomas for his question.
- E. Sometimes people judge others for asking questions rather than encouraging them.
- F. Questions are one of our greatest resources from growth, knowledge, and spiritual maturity.
- G. "Unasked questions" and "Unquestioned answers" are two threats to Christianity today.

III. Thomas Was Willing to Accept the Truth

- A. (John 20:24-29).
- B. Note that Thomas wasn't the only disciple who had to see to believe - this was not a peculiar characteristic of Thomas (Mark 16:11,14; Luke 24:11, 38-39).
- C. Thomas wanted to be sure in the same way the other disciples wanted to be sure.
- D. However, note Thomas' reaction when presented with the truth.

- Conclusion:
1. In the person of Thomas, I don't see a doubter above all others, I see a willing disciple.
 2. We have recorded for us the response that Thomas gave with reference to the identity of Jesus, now it's our turn to make a decision.
 3. Do you believe or doubt that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God?