

Is Thomas Experience Necessary For Us To Believe?

“Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it.” (John 20:24-25)

Who created the earth? Who made the heavens, the stars, the moon, the sun, and the origin of all? There are many theories about the origin of things and the scientists are proud of the hypothesis they put and to the things they proved. But yet, the question remains especially in the mind of those who do not believe in God: ‘Who is behind the creation?’

The book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, spoke about the creation in a simple, brief but definite way, unlike the detailed theories of today’s knowledge that you cannot depend on. I will not prove to you the true existence of God, because God Himself will prove His identity to every one of us who believe in Him.

God placed the first human, Adam and Eve, in the “garden of Eden.” There, God was with them as the Father, the Creator, the Lord and they as God’s Children. They had fellowship with Him, He spoke to them, they listened to Him, and He as well was listening to them. Their relationship was simply a description of a family life. But thereafter, Adam and Eve fall into the sin of disobedience to God’s order and God sent them out of the garden. So, God disappeared out of man’s sight, and the fellowship between God and human was broken and lost. From that time on, human missed the true presence of God. But, although some are denying the true presence of God, the idea that God is behind all the creation is installed in the hearts of certain people, “the people of God,” and from generation to generation, these people speak about the certainty of God and His power: “Tell me, what His name is? Describe to me His face? Show me His power? What have I to see? etc.” A lot of these questions the people of God are facing whenever they are preaching about God who is unseen.

The above introduction bridges the message of this week which is from the very known passage of the Bible written above.

The background was this: The Lord Jesus Christ had been crucified on the cross and all the disciples witnessed His death on the cross. These disciples who lived with Jesus knew with certainty that He was buried in a tomb and a big stone was blocking the entrance of the tomb. They all saw how the events happened until this new encounter: **“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” (John 20:19-20)**

The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord raised from the dead. Over all human history until that moment no one has been raised from the dead and lives forever, except the Lord Jesus Christ. In addition, He showed them Himself in the bodily form, and He also showed them the site where the nails pierced His hands and His side pierced with sword. As a result, the disciples for sure started to speak to the people about the Lord Jesus who is alive again. His resurrection from death means that He is the Messiah, the true King who came to save whoever believes in Him. As well, His appearance to them gave them the power and the authority to preach the message of salvation to the people. By resurrection, Jesus being the King and the Messiah is like the lost ring that has been found to complete the chain.

Thomas (Called Didymus), one of the twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” And for sure they explained to him everything in details. But, inspite of Thomas being one of the disciples, he did not immediately believe with what he was told that had happened. Behind the passages we find “Thomas attitude” that we oftentimes meet these days:

1) Stubborn Thomas: The ten disciples met Jesus, they heard Him spoke, they saw the marks on His body, and they joyfully believed and spoke about Him. But for Thomas, the ten dedicated disciples were wrong and he is the only one right. That is stubbornness! Thomas expressed his stubborn attitude, saying: **“Unless I see...”** The resurrection of Jesus from death was an expected issue for the Messiah. And Thomas should have easily believed, but stubbornness precluded him. Human stubbornness is the barriers that makes people unbelieving or stumble in faith even till now.

2) Doubtful Thomas: Thomas did not only demand to see the Lord to be convinced that He has resurrected from death, but he as well requested more visual and actual evidences to believe. Thomas insisted to see the nail marks in Jesus’ hands and put his finger where the nails were, and to put his hand into Jesus’ side.” The same doubts cause people not to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ’s message of salvation. People of today are requesting for more signs, asking more details, and digging more depth in search for truth. Doubt is the force in themselves that say, **“Unless I see... I will not believe.”**

My Dear and Beloved: Thomas’ story depicts a well-known attitude that is seen from one person to another. The twin of stubbornness and doubts are oftentimes found in ourselves or to some people around us. *But, to you who were not around when Jesus came to us, we want to reassure you that Jesus has been raised from the dead, we met Him, we experienced Him, we saw Him in our lives, and He is alive! We encourage you and invite you to believe in Him as you agree to pray.*

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from stubbornness and from doubts. Lord I ask you to increase my faith and enable to trust you and believe in what Your Word says, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*