

Seeing and Believing

Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He should rise again from the dead.—John 20:8-9

Imagine the amazement of the disciples as they came to the tomb and found it empty. They hesitated and did not know whether to go in. When John saw the empty tomb He believed.

Another one of the disciples, Thomas, said he would not believe unless he saw the print of the nails in Christ's hand and feet. Before we are critical of Thomas remember his willingness to follow Christ to the death, "*Let us also go, that we may die with Him*" (John 11:16).

Jesus did not chastise Thomas' questions but welcomed him and offered the opportunity to see and to touch the marks left by the crucifixion. Jesus moved Thomas from unbelieving to believing by showing the evidence of His great love.

Thomas' response to belief in the resurrection of Christ was, "*My Lord and my God*" (John 20:28).

Thomas saw and believed. Jesus confirmed Thomas' belief but added some words for us. "*Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed, Blesses are those who have not seen and yet have believed*" (v. 29).

Thomas' faith was genuine. He went on to serve God faithfully. As a preacher, he took the gospel to India where he was killed by a spear in his back. Thomas' questions and desire for truth were turned to faith, a faith that guided his life to the end.

The questions are the beginning of the journey, but the answers come finally in experience—in reaching out to touch, and to be touched ourselves, by the nail-scared hands.—David Jeremiah.
