

COMEBACK STORIES

A BOUT WITH DOUBT

“But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

*So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” **John 11:8, 14-16 (NIV)***

THREE KINDS OF BELIEVERS

- **CASUAL**
- **CONVENIENT**
- **COMMITTED**

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.”

Luke 24:1-4 (NIV) and Matthew 28:5-6a (NIV)

FEAR CAN LEAD TO DOUBTS

But (Thomas) 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 20:25b (NIV)

JESUS BRINGS PEACE AND OVERCOMES DOUBT

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." **John 20:26-27 (NIV)**

RE-AFFIRMING BELIEF CAN LEAD TO A LIFE OF IMPACT

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

John 20:28 (NIV)

- **Thomas' belief was committed enough to die for Jesus.**
- **Is your belief committed enough to live for Jesus?**

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." **John 20:29 (NIV)**

THOMAS' GREATEST QUESTION

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:1-6 (NIV)