

My Lord and My God

[24] But Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. [25] So the other disciples kept telling him, we have seen the Lord! But he said to them, unless I see in His hands the marks made by the nails and put my finger into the nail prints, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe it. John 20:24-29 AMPC

The Apostle Thomas is very much like you and me on Resurrection Sunday!

- Like Thomas we are really saying until this Jesus whom your church preaches can really relate to my deepest fears and personal disappointments I cannot live like you people live for God.
- Thomas was really saying I still have some insecurities of my own that religion has not been able to help me with.
- I am still being controlled by fear and selfishness and old wounds. And you want me to follow a bunch of do's and don'ts? It's not going to happen, thank you very much.
- I believe Jesus died and once walked the earth but this knowledge has not helped me with my habits I struggle with.
- Thomas was trying to keep it real like some of us here today.
- If this Jesus you claim really rose and has power than let Him heal and personally speak to my abandonment issues.
- Let Him appear to the empty and loneliness I battle daily because others around me failed to love me.
- Let Him silence the anger and depression I struggle to get rid of because of constantly being misunderstood by those who supposed to love me.
- That's if He really is real, like you Pentecostals say He is. Let's read **vs. 26**

26] Eight days later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though they were behind closed doors, and stood among them and said, Peace to you!

- Jesus came past the doors of pessimism, sarcasm, and low self-esteem and put right in Thomas's face the power of love.
- Jesus was confronting Thomas's attitude about religion with an experience of love on a first-hand basis.

27] Then He said to Thomas, reach out your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand and place it in My side. Do not be faithless and incredulous, but stop your unbelief and believe!

- Jesus wanted Thomas to experience love for himself. This would cause him and provoke him to desire repentance.
- This kind of resurrection love provoked Thomas to seek repentance and change his negative outlook on his life.
- Jesus told Thomas to touch the places on His body that were wounded. Why? So, Thomas could be convinced Jesus WAS relating to his private issues of abandonment, anger, resentment, and rejection.
- Only this kind of love can provoke real repentance in our lives.
- I see too many people try to rant or change their ways by being driven by shame, guilt, and condemnation. This kind of religious piety will last for a while until hurt and offenses and disappointments come into your life.
- Resurrection repentance is embracing this kind of love personally into your private secret issues so you can experience life changing repentance. Let's read **vs. 28**.

28] Thomas answered Him, My Lord and my God!

- Thomas is saying because I have come to face to face with a love that has penetrated through the locked doors of my heart I can personally call Jesus my Lord.
- Jesus is my Lover by experience. Now I want to repent and change because the love of Christ constrains me to do so.
- He is not some religious figure who I am made to bow down to because I could go to hell if I disobey.
- This resurrection Jesus is showing me a non-condemning and non-coercion love. Now He is my Lover and my Ruling King by choice.

This kind of love and repentance is not rooted in your good works and moral goodness.

- It's ruled by the reality I can never ever be a good person on my own in God's standards.
- It was through the weakness of our moral goodness we experience the power of His resurrection love.
- Jesus wanted Thomas to humble his pride and his strong opinions about how he was going to live his life before he could walk in this powerful love.
- Jesus shows Thomas the weakness and old wounds of His body to relate to his weaknesses and wounds.
- This is how real repentance works for both saints and our guests here today.
- The love of Jesus seeks to cover your sins and release you of your secret inner battles by a love that comes specifically from His resurrection.
- So, when you release today your faith in His grace to help you then grace goes undercover to eradicate these attitudes of rejection and abandonment that can make you a controlling person. Read **vs 29**.

29] Jesus said to him, because you have seen Me, Thomas, do you now believe (trust, have faith)? Blessed and happy and to be envied are those who have never seen Me and yet have believed and adhered to and trusted and relied on Me.

Repentance begins with you acknowledging the higher power of light and love has now entered the room of your heart today:

- Knocked Paul down on the road of Damascus causing him to leave the road he was heading on.
- This light and resurrection love caused the king to bring gray deliverance to Esther when her people were dying.
- This kind of love forgave a very wicked man named Ahab who God as going to destroy. God gave Ahab forgiveness and victory for a season of his life.
- His love motivates us to die because of His incredible compassion and mercies He shows us when we know we deserve judgment for our conduct.
- But I first must acknowledge the light and the presence of His love today before I can repent.
- And we do this through a response of praise and worship that channels His love in our personal space.
- This love gives us the power to change like nothing else can. This is what Resurrection Sunday is all about. He rose so you could have the power to overcome the things you are facing today.

Like the Apostle Paul, Jesus has come looking for you today on your road to Damascus, West Allis, Wisconsin.

- Love knocked Paul down. Calvary's resurrection love paralyzed him from continuing with his own ideologies ambitions to life.
- Like Thomas Paul's unbelief and intellectual skepticism blinded him to this love.
- He asked the question who are you? Who is behind this light and love I have never felt before?
- Jesus said, "It is Me, the resurrected Messiah whom you are kicking against".
- Your pride and your zeal for being a morally good person is blinding you from receiving My love.

- Paul's repentance was very private in **Acts 9:7-8**. Nobody around him could relate to this shining light of powerful love he was experiencing.
- So, Paul became blinded for three days. The same time Jesus was in the grace. His encounter with repentance tore him up from the root system of his attitude issues. He was trembling. Real resurrection love repentance makes you tremble.
- Paul became whole only when he repented from the words of a man named Ananias who came to him.
- Can you trust the man of God or the people of God who present this resurrection love to you this day?
- We must accept the preached word of God like Paul did in **Acts 19:18**
- Without receiving this kind of love our works of goodness, is dead works. The nature of dead works is when we decide what is good and bad separate from Calvary's resurrection superior love.
- Paul was fighting against God's love and didn't realize it. Like many of us do. **Acts 9:3-6** says:

3] Now as he traveled on, he came near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. Everybody say that was love coming after me. 4] And he fell to the ground. Everybody say his love makes you humble yourself.

- **Then he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me harassing, troubling, and molesting Me?**
- This is what we do to Jesus when we fight for His love for us personally. Saint and guest, do this to God. Your good works attitude and your negative self-esteem is fighting the superiority of My love trying to provoke you to rant today.

5] And Saul said, who are You, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is dangerous and it will turn out badly for you to keep kicking against the goad to offer vain and perilous resistance.

- This goad is an agricultural term for an ox kicking against the pricking stick called a good of the farmer. The farmer is trying to get the ox to go in a certain direction but it rebels to fight against the prick or goad.
- Your fears, your unbelief, in My love is kicking against My love for you. It causes you to feel no need to repent.

6] Trembling and astonished he asked, Lord, what do You desire me to do? The Lord said to him, but arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.

- Now repentance begins because Paul asked the question, what do you want me to do?
- Resurrection love provokes us to pursue repentance like Paul and Thomas did.
- We always want to find some good thing in us to say I am not as bad as other people in this building.
- Like Paul we become defensive to repentance.
- We respond to repentance first by responding to His love.
- Love disarms a defensive person to change.

Love came after Jonah before he repented.

Love came after David in his sin before he repented.

Love came after Adam in the cool of the day before he repented.

And love is coming after all of us on Resurrection Sunday.

- And when we respond to love then miracles happen.
- People receive the Holy Ghost.
- People are delivered from sickness.
- Real joy shows up when we respond to His love.
- Depression and condemnation is lifted when the Resurrection shows up passed your locked doors.
- But like Paul and Thomas, Jesus is waiting for a response.
- Thomas said, “Jesus is my Lord and Lover but He is also my Ruling King over my entire life”.
- This is what real repentance is supposed to produce.

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