

Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them. Like so many of us he had gone off to be alone with his grief (John 20:24). When the others told how he had missed seeing Jesus he could not / would not believe them (John 20:25). He wanted Jesus' physical presence. He needed to doubt / question before he could believe.

Have you ever wished you could actually see Jesus and touch Him? Discuss

When – like Thomas – we withdraw from Christian fellowship we miss a great deal, as things happen to us within the fellowship which will not happen to us when / if we are alone.

Can you share with the group an occasion / time you would have been overwhelmed / unable to cope without the support of other believers?

Thomas teaches us that there is more faith in the person who fights through doubt in order to be sure / to reach conviction that Jesus Christ is Lord, than in the person who thoughtlessly makes a glib profession of belief (John 20:26-29).

A person who has attained conviction, has a certainty that nothing can undermine

Have you ever had doubts about your faith? Discuss

IN CLOSING

As an eyewitness to Jesus' ministry, John's teaching about Him was / is true and can be trusted. His aim was to show what Jesus was like and the kind of things He always did, in order that his readers could accept Jesus as Saviour, Master and Lord – and experience new Life (John 20:30-31)

How can believers learn to understand the life and mission of Jesus?

PRAYER

God of mission,
you raised Jesus Christ as the first born of the dead.
By your Holy Spirit empower us to witness to Him, so
that those who have not yet seen may come to believe
in Him who was and is to come, and who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen