

John 20:24-31

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."



²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen

me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Does Jesus mean he prefers "faith" that doesn't require evidence?

No, Thomas had more than enough

- the things written in the Old Testament (e.g. 1:45; 2:17; 12:16 cf. 20:9)
- the things testified by the other apostles ("we have seen the Lord!", v25; cf. v18)
- the power of Jesus already displayed (e.g. John 11)

And we have all that he had ... plus (thanks to his scepticism) a little more.

- the things that Thomas saw and touched with his hands (v27 cf. 1 John 1:1)

And all of this is written down in Spirit-breathed words of life (20:31 cf. 5:24; 6:63)

APPLICATION: You are blessed if you believe. You are foolish to disbelieve.

COFFEE QUESTION

How does Jesus' response to "doubting Thomas" challenge your doubt?