

PESSIMISTIC DIDYMUS

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John 20:18 - 31

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Thomas is usually called “Doubting Thomas”... but the other close followers of Jesus had their own struggles with doubt. All who have doubts are not always doubters... and those who tend to look on the dark side are not always pessimistic. Most of us may struggle along these lines at different times. There is often “self doubt”... doubt about the future... life partner... jobs... security... retirement... health... death... eternity. Looking at Thomas’ journey can help us in the midst of our “down” times...

I. THE SELECTION of THOMAS....

A. The Three Synoptic Gospels.... Mt.10:2-5; Mk.3:13-19; Luke 6:13-16

- All were chosen by Jesus... and commissioned by Jesus.... and sent forth by Jesus

B. Remember YOU Were Chosen By The Lord.... James 2:5; 1Peter 2:9 [and commissioned]

II. THE PESSIMISM of THOMAS...

A. The Situation With Lazarus... John 11:1-16

1. Jesus was ministering east of Jordan near Betharba... where John had baptized... Jn.10:39-42

2. A messenger came from Mary and Martha... brother Lazarus was sick.... Jn.11:1,2

3. Jesus tells his disciples... 11:4... but delayed for two more days...

4. Then Jesus said... “let us go into Judea again...” * but it was dangerous... vs. 8.. disciples concerned

- Jesus says he is sleeping... I go to awaken him... vs.11... disciples... he’s OK then....

- Jesus speaks of his death..... 12,13.... vs. 14 He said plainly... “he’s dead”

5. Then Thomas.... said, “Let us go that we might die with Him”

- pessimistic... but heroic.. ready to die with Jesus... the One he loved!

** DO OUR DOUBTS CAUSE US TO DRAW BACK??

B. The Situation In The Upper Room... John 14:1-6

1. Jesus and His promises.... I’m going away.... You know the way.... vs.3,4

2. Thomas.... We don’t know... How can we know the way.... his love for Jesus is manifested....

3. Jesus told him and all of us... vs.6... I am The Way... The Truth... The Life...

** DO WE JUST BELIEVE GOD AND HIS WORD AND TRUST IN HIM??

C. The Situation On The Resurrection Evening... John 20:19 - 25

1. Jesus and the disciples where they were “holed” up...

- He appeared and spoke to them.... 20:19

- He gave them assurance....

- Peace be unto you... showed His wounds.... said again, “peace” 20:21 a

- He gave them an assignment... 21:b.... as the Father sent Me, .. so I send you..

- He promised assistance... “receive the Holy Spirit”... vs. 22

** WE HAVE HIS ASSURANCE and ASSIGNMENT and ASSISTANCE.. Through His Word!!

WILL WE LET HIS WORD and HIS PRESENCE CAST OUT OUR DOUBTS??

BUT... THOMAS WAS NOT PRESENT...

III. THE ABSENCE of THOMAS... on that first Resurrection Evening Meeting!! John 20:24

A. His negative attitude shattered all his hopes!!

1. He was more pessimist than optimist... a “worrywart”... tend to look on the dark side...

2. He was informed by the other disciples.... “We have seen the Lord..” 20:25 a

2. He declared... “unless I see.....” I will not believe...” 20:25 b

B. His second opportunity... 8 days later... Jn.20:26

1. Jesus met the disciples again... and Thomas Was Present!! [I’m glad for the God of 2nd chances]

2. Jesus said to all, “peace unto you”... and vs.27... and to Thomas...

IV. THE PERSUASION of THOMAS... vs.28, 29 THE PESSIMIST WAS PERSUADED...

A. Jesus spoke... Thomas... exclaimed... “MY LORD and MY GOD!!”

** ARE WE WILLING TO MAKE THAT STATEMENT? THE DOUBTS and PESSIMISM WILL FADE..

1. The Blessing Comes To Those Who Will Believe even Without Seeing!!!

B. The Holy Spirit Came a few weeks later.... Promise.... Presence.... Power... The Changes Come!!

1. Things changed for Thomas... ministered in India... died as a martyr there...

ARE YOU DEALING WITH DOUBT?? FOLLOW THE JOURNEY OF THOMAS...

AND EXPERIENCE THE PEACE and FRUITFULNESS THAT GOD PROVIDES!!!