



A Closer Look at Thomas the Twin

John 20:24-29

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- The name Thomas (Koine Greek: Θωμᾶς) given for the apostle in the New Testament is derived from the Aramaic: Toma, from Hebrew Teom, meaning “twin.” Didymus is koine Greek for “twin”
- According to Syriac translations, his actual first name was Judas or Jude, not the traitor Judas Iscariot nor Jude the brother of Jesus

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- Tradition records that Thomas may have been the only apostle present at the passing of Mary.
- Thomas is believed to have sailed to India in AD 52 to spread the Gospel, and is purported to have landed at the port of Muziris, where there was a Jewish community at the time, as reported by Ephrem the Syrian of Edessa.
- According to tradition, Thomas was killed by being run through with a soldier's spear in 72 AD and his body was interred in Mylapore.

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- Thomas speaks only in John's Gospel
 - John 11:16
 - John 14:5
 - John 20:24-29

Thomas Was Willing To Risk His Life

- John 11:7-8, 16 - “Then after this He said to the disciples, Let us go to Judea again. 8 The disciples said to Him, Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again? ... 16 Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”

Thomas Was Willing To Ask Questions

- John 14:2-9 - “In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know. 5 Thomas said to Him, Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him. 8 Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us. 9 Jesus said to him, Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, Show us the Father?”

Thomas Was Willing To Accept The Truth

- John 20:24-29 - “Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, We have seen the Lord. So he said to them, Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe. 26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace to you! 27 Then He said to Thomas, Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God! 29 Jesus said to him, Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Thomas Was Willing To Accept The Truth

- Other disciples doubted the resurrection
 - Mark 16:11, 14 - “And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe... 14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.”

Thomas Was Willing To Accept The Truth

- Luke 24:9-12 - “Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. 11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.”

A Closer Look at Thomas the Twin

- “Jesus' willingness to accommodate Thomas' unbelief is a reminder that God can handle our doubt. And that the rationalist doesn't need to see, touch, or run a lab test in order to believe in the resurrected Christ. Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me” (John 20:29) This is not a plea to accept what goes against reason, but it is an invitation to discover a faith that goes beyond it. The example of Thomas is for the stubborn skeptic in us all.” (David D. Flowers)