



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see it...I will not believe." ...Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Select verses from John 20:24-29

The resurrection scars

"You wouldn't believe the game of putt-putt golf I had today. I got a hole-in-one on every hole!"

Is it hard to convince a friend of yours that someone has done the impossible? No matter how many times you tell them, they will probably ask you to prove it; sometimes seeing is believing. No matter how hard they want to believe you, they have to see it with their own eyes and touch it with their own hands.

This is how it was for Thomas. Jesus had risen from the dead and appeared to his disciples. But Thomas wasn't with them. The disciples told Thomas what they had seen and touched, but it was too much for Thomas. He said that he wouldn't believe them unless he put his hands in the nail marks in Jesus' hands and feet and felt his side. A week later Jesus again appeared to his disciples. This time Thomas was with them. This time Thomas got to see and touch. Finally, he believed.

But why did it take so long? Thomas was there when Jesus had told his disciples that he would be raised from the dead. Jesus told them more than once. Why would he need so much convincing?

There are times in our lives when we too need a lot of convincing, but why? Why do we doubt? The truth is, some things are hard to believe when we can't see and touch them. At times it feels like we have a blind faith.

But our faith is hardly blind. Jesus reminds us in John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Our faith stands on the sure words of Jesus. These words are even more sure now that he has kept his promise by rising from the dead. He truly has overcome the world.

Thomas wanted a "scar story," something he could see and believe. And in great love for Thomas, Jesus came to him in his weakness to show him his scars, to even let him touch those scars.

In your times of doubting and wanting to see, look at the scars that Jesus showed Thomas. Look at the scars that Thomas touched. Know that all your doubts are forgiven. Jesus really has conquered sin and death for the world. Jesus really has risen from the dead, just as he said. His Word is true! His promises are sure. You can count on it. His scars are the proof.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for bearing those scars and showing them to us. In times of doubt remind us of your words "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Remind us of the sure things that Thomas got to see and touch. Then, give us faith to believe it. Amen.