

35. John 20:24-31

Getting started

What does it mean to you for Jesus to be divine?

Observation

1. Did Thomas put his finger in Jesus' wounds? *[It does not say so, and the implication is that seeing Jesus was enough to remove Thomas' doubts.]*
2. How does Jesus respond to Thomas' doubts?
3. How does Jesus respond to Thomas' declaration in verse 28? *[Jesus does not disclaim Thomas' confession of his divinity.]*

Interpretation

1. Why mention both the nail holes and hole in Jesus' side? *[The nails speak of crucifixion, the piercing of the side connects with Scripture being fulfilled and the blood and water that flowed.]*
2. Do you think John intends us to believe that Jesus can walk through walls, or that Jesus cannot be locked out, (or both)?
3. How are we to interpret Thomas' conclusion that Jesus is his Lord and his God? How does this sit with suggestions made by more contemporary doubters that the divinity of Jesus was made up in later generations?
4. What does it mean to have life in the name of Jesus? *[We have life because we believe that he dies for us. Also, remember we can pray in his name for things we would think he would want his Father to grant.]*
5. Who do you think Jesus had in mind in verse 29 as being blessed?

Implications

1. Do you think John was aware of the type of doubts people have when they are told unlikely stories?
2. Has John shown enough that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in his name?
3. How can we help people who have doubts?
4. In what ways has John, in his gospel, shown that Jesus is the Christ, and in what ways has he shown that Jesus is the Son of God? What do we know about Jesus as the Son of God?

Prayer Suggestions

1. Praise that God would be aware of our doubts and address them in his Bible.
2. Ask that we may always have confidence in Jesus as our Lord and our God.
3. Ask that the whole world fall to its knees and declare that Jesus is Lord and God.
4. Ask that we may live out the consequences that Jesus is our Lord and God.