

THOMAS

Thomas was one of twelve called by Jesus to be a disciple during Jesus' ministry on earth and to spread the gospel message to the world after his death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven. Unlike other disciples of Jesus, Thomas' hometown and occupation are unknown. Thomas was also called Didymus (**John 11:16; 20:24; 21:2**). Thomas, or Didymus, is mentioned in all four gospels and the book of Acts, but what we know about him is written in the gospel of John. Both names of this disciple, Thomas and Didymus, mean 'twin,' though no identification of his twin is given in the Bible.

Certain aspects of Thomas' character are known. He had **courage** in the face of danger. When about to go and raise Lazarus from the dead, Jesus equated his own impending death with that of Lazarus. Thomas boldly declared, "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (**John 11:11-16**).

Thomas was **honest** and **transparent**. When Jesus said, "I am going there to prepare a place for you. . you know the way to the place where I am going" (**John 14:2, 4**), Thomas spoke up, probably when no one else would, and said, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way" (**John 14:5**). Jesus made this well-known reply, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (**John 11:6**).

Thomas is best known, however, for his **doubt** and **lack of faith**. When Thomas was informed that Jesus was raised from the dead, he said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it" (**John 20:24-25**). Jesus appeared to the disciples a week later and went right to Thomas, inviting him to see and feel the wounds. Only after Thomas had seen physical proof was he convinced that Jesus was resurrected and declared him Lord (**John 20:28**). Jesus said to Thomas, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (**John 20:29**).

Thomas earned the nickname "**Doubting Thomas**" as result of this famous incident. We believe, however, that most of the other disciples, like Thomas, though hearing

Jesus' teaching and seeing the miracles he performed for three years, still had some doubts, witnessed by the fact that all deserted him at the Cross except for His beloved disciple, John ([John 19:25-27](#)).

Closing Thoughts

Many of us possess Thomas' characteristics at times. We may be courageous and honest, seemingly ready to give our lives for the Lord, yet require physical proof about some aspects of spiritual life that Jesus said could only be accepted by faith. Jesus showed compassion with Thomas; He does the same for each of us. Despite occasional doubts, it is good to ask questions when no one else will. That is how we learn, grow in spirit, and stand stronger in the faith.

This is an introduction on the subject of **Thomas**. Here are a few other resources you may wish to explore:

[Thomas the Apostle: Nicknamed 'Doubting Thomas' \(learnreligions.com\)](#)

[Topical Bible: Thomas \(biblehub.com\)](#)

[Who Was Doubting Thomas? Meaning from the Bible \(christianity.com\)](#)

[How can I avoid being a doubting Thomas? | GotQuestions.org](#)