



RBC CONNECT GROUP STUDY FOR WEEK 19/4/20

POST RESURRECTION - JESUS AND 'DOUBTING THOMAS'

Please note: As always, the following questions are discussion starters to the topic of faith. Feel free to explore what faith is as you begin your discussion.

Have you ever stopped to consider how considerable a part 'faith' plays in our ordinary lives?

1) In what ways do we exercise faith in our day-to-day life?

What is faith? To help, here are two definitions.

Bible definition:

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 1: 1)

Dictionary definition:

A strong belief in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual conviction rather than proof.

Scripture: John 20: 24 - 29 (NLT)

²⁴ One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. ²⁵ They told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he replied, 'I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.' ²⁶ Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!' ²⁸ 'My Lord and my God!' Thomas exclaimed. ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, 'You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.'

Over the years Thomas has become known forever as 'Doubting Thomas.'

- 2) Do you think this is fair? Why or why not?
- 3) Have you ever required proof of something before you believe it to be true?
- 4) What does 'blessed are those who believe without seeing me' mean for you?

For reflection:

What does it tell me about Jesus that He continues to bear the marks of crucifixion in his risen body?

Further reading: Hebrews 11: Zechariah 12: 10, John 19: 37

'God of compassion,

Be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation, in their loneliness, be their consolation;

In their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light;

Through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory,

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen'

Next week: 'Forgiveness' John 21: 15 - 19