

aired on KALS October 26, 2004

John 20:26-31

26. “After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, ‘Peace be with you.’

27. Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.’

28. Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’

29. Jesus said to him, ‘Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.’

30. Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

31. but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

The apostle Thomas did not believe Jesus had bodily resurrected, until he actually saw and touched the body of the resurrected Christ. This is where the term “doubting

Thomas” come from. After Thomas saw and believed, Jesus made the following statement: “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”

For us living today, who can not see the risen body of Jesus with the physical eye, or touch His wounds with our hands--must do so by faith. Recall that God Himself defines faith as “the conviction of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1. Our conviction concerning Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God, must come from what is written in the Scriptures, and especially in the gospel accounts. So the gospel according to John, chapter 20, verses 30 and 31 declare, “Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Now, the fact that Jesus is the Christ, that Jesus is God in the flesh, is pivotal to saving faith. Jesus Himself showed this to be the case in Matthew 16:16-18. After Peter answered, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,” Jesus declared, “Upon this rock I will build My church.”

Faith in Jesus as the sovereign God, who temporarily inhabited a human body of flesh and blood for thirty-three years nearly two centuries ago, constitutes the starting point of saving faith. Without this conviction firmly established in one’s heart, the power of God for salvation

can not reach a person.

The gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were written specifically “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ.” These are the well-spring for the beginning of saving faith, “that believing you may have life in His name.” Romans 5:1 and 2 explains it this way: “Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand.”

So the question of faith goes a little further than “do you know Jesus?” But in fact asks, “How do you know who Jesus is?” and builds from there.