

Sermon Notes

Sunday, 12th April 2026

40 Days: Sacred Moments

Scripture: Acts 1.3 & John 20.24-29

1. Thomas: More Than a Doubter

- Listed among the Twelve in all four Gospel lists
- In John 11.16, he said, "Let us go and die with Him"
- His honest question in John 14.5 prompted Jesus' declaration: "I am the way, the truth, and the life"
- He wasn't weak or faithless by nature; he was honest, courageous, and devoted

2. The Struggle Between Sight and Faith

- Thomas had seen the crucifixion firsthand (John 20.25)
- His demand for proof was rooted in real grief, not stubbornness
- Hebrews 11.1 defines faith as "evidence of things not seen," not the absence of evidence

Three stages of saving faith:

- **Knowledge:** knowing the facts of the gospel
- **Assent:** affirming those facts are true and personal
- **Trust:** placing the full weight of your life on them (James 2.19)

3. Jesus Meets Thomas Where He Is

- Eight days later, Jesus appears again (John 20.26-27)
- He does not shame Thomas; He offers exactly what Thomas asked for
- Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20.28)
- He leaps from knowledge through assent into total trust

4. The Eyes of Faith

- Faith does not ignore the nails or pretend the suffering was not real
- Without faith, Thomas saw the cross as an ending; with faith, it becomes a beginning
- Paul prays for "the eyes of your heart" to be opened (Ephesians 1.18)
- Jesus blesses all who believe without seeing (John 20.29): that is us

Reflection Questions

- Where in your life are you standing on the threshold of faith, stuck between what you have seen and what God is asking you to trust?
- Which stage of faith (knowledge, assent, or trust) best describes where you are today, and what would it look like to take the next step?