

May 19, 2020

Before I begin this Thomas, Story there is an announcement.

**Tomorrow we will open the church for private prayer. We ask that you wear a mask and practice social distancing. Also please wipe down the area in the church that you occupy. If there are 10 people in the church, please wait outside for some of the others to leave.**

Now to Thomas- Upper Room

As he began his story, he recalled that he had been won over by Jesus more by the things that he saw than the things that he heard. The blind who could see, lepers cleansed, people fed. It all added up to him. This man was something special. Thomas believed in what he could see. In this case he liked what he saw and so he accepted this invitation to follow. He hoped he would see more.

When Jesus began to say some things that caused him problems, Thomas really thought he would do something to get around it. So when Jesus said they would go down to Judea after the death of Lazarus, he said that they should all go down and die with him. Thomas did not expect to see Jesus or any of them die. He expected to see something spectacular. He did but it was not exactly what he was expecting.

It began alright with another miracle. Lazarus was brought back to life. This astounded them all, him included. But slowly things turned bad and finally they came to the garden where they prayed and he allowed himself to be arrested. Thomas was expecting more than this. He ran and hid. Then he ran some more. By the end of the next day, he heard that Jesus was dead. Thomas had seen enough. He knew when to move on from a bad scene. This had become a bad scene. Thomas left Jerusalem and headed back to Capernaum. He was there when someone brought incredible news that Jesus had been seen. He listened but was still skeptical about this news. Something in him said to go back and so he retraced his steps to Jerusalem.

Back in the Upper Room, he saw his old friends. They told him that Jesus lived. Their words we're not enough. No one's words were ever enough. His words came out, unless I see and unless I touch, I will not believe.

The next Sunday evening, he was still with them. Then suddenly, Jesus was with them as well. He looked at Thomas and said, " See my hand, touch my side." Thomas, for the first time, heard words that meant something. Jesus had used the words that Thomas had said. Thomas did more than see, he heard and he knew that he had been heard by the one he now proclaimed as "My Lord and My God." Now he was here with the others ready to tell all that he had seen and heard.

Have you ever given up on God or the church when things did not go the way you expected?

What or Who brought you back to God or the church?

Have you ever felt like God really listened to the things you said?

Fr. Marty