

Study Notes based on Sunday 23 September 2018

Learning from Disciples: Thomas - John 20: 24-29 – Sue Fensome

1. What do you normally think when the name of the disciple Thomas is mentioned?
2. Sue identified Thomas as one who asks questions. Recall times when you have been grateful to someone who opens their mouth and asks the seemingly stupid question, to which everyone really wants to know the answer?
3. See John 11:5-16. What aspect of Thomas' discipleship is illustrated in this passage?
4. See John 14:1-7. What do we learn about Thomas from this passage?
5. Sadly Thomas is remembered mostly as 'the doubter'. How would you have felt if the one time you were absent, your colleagues claimed that the risen Christ had turned up? Was Thomas' reaction a reasonable one? How important is reviewing evidence for ourselves? How important is personal encounter with Jesus?
6. Read John 20:27. What do Jesus' words tell us about the way he treats each of us as individuals, according to our personal needs or even our doubts? Was this just for Thomas, or is this for us too?
7. On the basis of the physical evidence of the resurrection Thomas worships Jesus expressing a strong conclusion as to who Jesus really is - 'My Lord and my God'. What does this turn around from doubt to belief tell us about Thomas' character?
8. How do we read v29. Is this rebuke to Thomas and all who require some kind of evidential proof, before belief? What light may v30 cast on this question?
9. On balance, how do you think Thomas should best be remembered – doubting, questioning, learning, loyal?
10. If we are learning from disciples, what lesson do we learn from Thomas?

John S Smith 24 September 2018