

# The Witness in the Room: A 5-Day Devotional

## Day 1: More Than a Nickname

Thomas isn't the "Doubter"; he is the seeker. He wasn't trying to leave the faith; he was trying to find a reason to stay. Thomas has been stuck with a "bad nickname" for two thousand years. We often judge him for his one moment of hesitation, forgetting that his desire was for a *real* connection, not a second-hand story. God's "Prevenient Grace" was already working on Thomas even when he wasn't in the room. He was being wooed by a God who refuses to leave the honest seeker behind.

- **Scripture Focus:** John 20:24-25; Romans 5:8
- **Reflection Questions:**
  1. Have you ever felt defined by your "worst ten minutes"? How does it feel to know Jesus looks past your labels to your heart?
  2. Thomas wanted his own encounter rather than living off his friends' testimonies. In what areas of your life are you currently relying on "second-hand faith"?
  3. How does the concept of "Prevenient Grace"—God pursuing you before you even know it—change how you view your current questions?
- **Action Step:** Write down one "label" you've given yourself (e.g., "The Failure," "The Doubter," "The Outsider"). Pray specifically, asking God to replace that label with His truth today.

## Day 2: The Ache of the Absence

Thomas was an eyewitness to the absence before he was an eyewitness to the presence. He didn't want to eat "cold toast" while others described a "five-star meal." There is an "honest ache" in missing out. Thomas was likely grieving, perhaps practical, perhaps isolated. When he said "I will not believe," it wasn't a shut door; it was a plea for a personal touch. Like John Wesley, who wanted his heart "strangely warmed," we are invited to move past knowing *about* God to truly *experiencing* Him.

- **Scripture Focus:** Psalm 42:1-3; Hebrews 11:1
- **Reflection Questions:**
  1. What is the "honest ache" or unanswered question in your life right now?
  2. Are you willing to be as honest with God as Thomas was about what you need to see or feel to move forward?
  3. How can "absence" or a season of waiting actually prepare our hearts for a deeper "presence"?
- **Action Step:** Spend 10 minutes in silence today. Don't ask for anything; just sit in the "ache" and tell God, "I'm here, and I'm waiting for You."

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## Day 3: Breaking Through the Set

Like Truman Burbank in *The Truman Show*, Thomas felt a gnawing intuition that there was "more" beyond the horizon. He needed to touch the "wall" to see if the world was real. We often live in a scripted reality—a world of grief, routine, and "the way things are." Thomas's doubt was the finger reaching out to touch the "wall" of his reality. When Jesus appeared, He didn't scold Thomas for needing to touch the wounds; He offered them. Jesus meets us at our "exit door," inviting us to step out of our curated fears and into the New Creation.

- **Scripture Focus:** Jeremiah 29:13; Acts 17:27
- **Reflection Questions:**
  1. What "script" are you currently living in that feels too small (e.g., "I'll never change," "Death always wins")?
  2. How is Jesus currently "walking through the locked doors" of your skepticism or fear?
  3. If you reached out to "touch the wall" of your current situation, what truth are you hoping to find on the other side?
- **Action Step:** Identify one area where you feel "trapped" by a certain narrative. Actively look for one "God-moment" (a light falling from the sky, a patch of rain) that proves He is working behind the scenes.

## Day 4: The Credentials of the Scars

Jesus's scars are His credentials. He kept the marks of His suffering to prove His love. Thomas's love was perfected when he saw that God carries our pain. It is a profound mystery: the resurrected, perfect body of Jesus still carried the scars of the cross. Those scars were the only proof Thomas needed. In the same way, our own scars—our past pains, mistakes, and healings—can become the "credentials" of our testimony. We don't have to be perfect; we just have to be "perfected in love."

- **Scripture Focus:** Isaiah 53:5; 2 Timothy 2:13
- **Reflection Questions:**
  1. Why do you think Jesus chose to keep His scars after the resurrection?
  2. How do the "scars" in your own life point to God's faithfulness rather than your failure?
  3. When you look at the "holes in His hands," what does it tell you about the lengths God will go to meet you?
- **Action Step:** Think of a "scar" in your life (a past trial or hurt). Practice sharing the story of that scar with a trusted friend, focusing not on the pain, but on how God met you there.

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## Day 5: The Blessing for the Rest of Us

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." We are the people in verse 29. We see through Thomas's eyes. Thomas traveled all the way to India because his "I won't believe" transformed into "I will die for this." We may not get the physical upper room experience, but we have the eyewitness account. Our faith is a "presence of trust" in the midst of doubt. We are invited to move from "I'm not sure" to the most profound confession: "My Lord and my God!"

- **Scripture Focus:** 1 Peter 1:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:7
- **Reflection Questions:**
  1. What does it mean to you that Jesus specifically gave a "blessing" to *you* (those who haven't seen) in this passage?
  2. How has your faith grown more robust by working through a period of doubt?
  3. What would it look like for you to "exit your fear" and walk into a "global mission" in your own neighborhood or workplace?
- **Action Step:** Take a bold step of trust today. Perform one act of service or offer one word of encouragement to someone else, acting as if you have seen the Resurrected Lord standing right next to you.

**Closing Prayer for the Week:** *Lord, thank You for our brother Thomas. Thank You for not leaving him behind in his questions, and thank You for not leaving us behind in ours. Warm our hearts by Your Spirit. Lead us from the "script" of our old lives into the reality of Your Kingdom. May we always say with confidence: "My Lord and my God!" Amen.*