

MORNING MEDITATION

St. Thomas the Apostle

Serenity is when you find peace in the midst of chaos.

Ephesians 2:19-22

Paul tells the Ephesians that they have a noble calling, that they are no longer aliens or strangers, but they are fellow citizens of the saints and members of the household of God and they are to become a dwelling place for God in the spirit.

Be faithful to your noble calling.

Psalms 117

**Praise the Lord, all you nations;
Glorify him, all you peoples!
For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
And the fidelity of the Lord endures forever.**

John 20:24-29

The resurrection of Jesus offered new possibilities of forgiveness, peace, faith, hope, love..... Even the reality of doubt has gained a new meaning and value. The reality of doubt began to be seen as an integral part of our journey of faith. Thomas stands out in today's Gospel as a source of encouragement for all believers. As a questioning person, Thomas moved from skepticism and disbelief to a firm and committed faith.

May the Holy Spirit bless and transform your disbelief and all your doubts and all your fears and empower you to respond to God's call in faithfulness and love!

Easter changed everything! Men and women experienced transformation of their lives. Frightened men became fearless proclaimers of the good news of Jesus and ministers of God's forgiving and healing presence among his people. Denials were turned to affirmations of love and dedicated service as in the case of Peter and doubts were changed to confession of faith as in the case of Thomas. Men who were hiding in fear were empowered to move freely and proclaim their joy in the risen Lord.

Easter did change everything! Transformation of people did happen! Be open to the transforming power of the resurrection of Jesus!

Saint of the Day. July 3 - St. Thomas, Apostle and 30 other saints are remembered this day.

We know very little about St. Thomas. He was chosen by Jesus to be one of his twelve apostles. He was an extraordinary person. He was blamed and praised and thanked for the same qualities: Impulsiveness and skepticism. He was impulsive enough to say to his friends "let us go and die with him", he was skeptical about where his master was going and how to get there, he was doubtful about the resurrection and he was not going to believe the word of others, he would believe only when he could touch the wounds of his master and finally he was impulsive enough to say, "my Lord and my God" when he met his master again.

The seeking, questioning nature of Thomas made it possible for him to discover the truth for himself. His impulsiveness helped him to surrender to the truth when he finally found it. After all, he wasn't skeptical, and he wasn't impulsive.... he was just seeking the truth and he was ready to give himself to the truth he found.

The Gospel of John tells us the following about Thomas. In John 11:1-16, when Jesus told his disciples that he was going to Bethany because his friend Lazarus had died, Thomas said to the others "Let us also go, that we may die with him." He knew that his master's life was in danger. But he was ready to face the danger. When Jesus spoke of going to the Father, Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, how do we know the way?" (John 14:1-5). After the resurrection of Jesus, Thomas refused to believe the testimony of others. He had to see it for himself (John 20:25-29). When Jesus appeared again, Jesus invited Thomas to probe his wounds and told him to not persist in his unbelief. Thomas worshipped Jesus and exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" Thomas is remembered as a missionary in India.

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