



What Happens When a Peaceful Phlegmatic Encounter the Risen Christ? A Close Encounter with Living Faith • Part 2

Lesson 6

What Happens When a Peaceful Phlegmatic Encounters the Risen Christ?

John 20:26-:31

1. A ROOM OF CONFLICTED FOLLOWERS: The Eleven Were Believing but Doubting and Difficult Disciples!

1. The ten were **locked-out of faith** in the Living Lord **by fear**. John 20:19
2. Jesus appears in the midst of their fear to increase their faith **by bringing them peace!** John 20:19-23
3. Thomas is **absent** and **chooses** to be **DIFFICULT**. John 20:24-25

➤ “Doubting Thomas” is not present. (24)

Pragmatism	A practical, matter-of-fact way of approaching or assessing situations or solving problems.
Pessimism	A tendency to stress the negative or unfavorable or to take the gloomiest possible view .
Realism	Concern for fact or reality and rejection of the impractical (like Mary) and visionary (like Cleopas).
Existentialist	A philosophy that emphasizes the uniqueness and isolation of the individual experience in a hostile or indifferent universe , regards human existence as unexplainable , and stresses freedom of choice and responsibility for the consequences of one's acts .

➤ “Demanding Thomas” did not believe. (25)

- 1) He **simply refused** to believe.
- 2) He **spirit** was wrong.
 - He had a **demanding spirit** (27a) “unless I see...**and** put my finger...**and** put my hand...”
 - He had a **self-centered spirit** (27) “I...my...my...I...”
 - He had an **unbelieving spirit** (27b) “I will not believe...”
 - He had a **proud spirit** (28) “My Lord and My God!”
- 3) He **still needed** a **CONVICTING encounter** of the **motivating kind** with the risen Lord!

2. A CONVICTING ENCOUNTER: Thomas Is Honestly Confronted for a HUMBLING Reason!

1. The Living Lord’s **REPEAT** performance for Thomas’ sake. John 20:26

☑ Same day “And after eight days...”	SUNDAY BUT ONE WEEK LATER
☑ Same people “...His disciples were again...”	THE DISCIPLES – DEFINITELY THE ELEVEN PERHAPS MORE
☑ Same situation “...inside...the doors having been shut...”	INSIDE WITH THE DOORS SHUT
☑ Same manner “...Jesus came...and stood in their midst...”	STOOD IN THEIR MIDST
☑ Same message “...and said, Peace be with you...”	PEACE BE WITH YOU!
☑ One difference “...and Thomas was with them...”	Thomas is present to be CONFRONTED! (27)

First Appearance

He came...
He stood...
He said...
He **showed**... (20)

Second Appearance

He came...
He stood...
He said...
He **said to Thomas**... (27)

2. The Living Lord’s **HONEST** confrontation of Thomas’ spirit. (27-28)

“Then He said to Thomas...”

- Confronts his **DEMANDING** spirit: "Start reaching your finger...start reaching your hand..."
*"Then he focused his attention on Thomas. Take your finger **and examine my hands**. Take your hand **and stick it in my side**."*
 The Message

- Confronts his **SELF-CENTERED** spirit: "Then He said to Thomas...your...your..."

- Confronts his **UNBELIEVING** spirit: "Stop being/becoming an unbeliever, instead start being/becoming a believer!"

Does this mean Thomas was in the process of losing his salvation? What's really going on here?
 2Corinthians 13:5; 2Peter 1:10

- Confronts (and breaks!) his **PROUD** spirit: "My Lord and my God!"

3. The Living Lord's **HUMBLING** reason for honestly confronting Thomas! (28)

- To **HUMBLE** Thomas to **stop demanding** and **start listening** to the living Word!
- To **MOTIVATE** Thomas to **stop doubting** and **start believing** in the living Lord!

3. A CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE MOTIVATING KIND: THE LIVING LORD WITH THE LIVING FAITH!

Why am I not more motivated to trust the Lord and live for Him on a daily basis?
How can we motivate others to believe in and live for the Lord Jesus Christ?

1. A living faith is motivated to **BELIEVE** in the living Word. (28-29)

WHAT motivated Thomas to believe? WHAT made the difference?

*Faith in the Risen Lord Comes as a Result of **HEARING** His Words and Personally **RESPONDING** to Him!*
*A Living Faith Is the Result of **CHOOSING TO TRUST** in the Living Words of the Living Lord!*
 John 20:30-31

2. A living faith is motivated to **LIVE** for the living Lord. (28, 30-31)

Thomas' Confession Is the Climax of the Gospel of John and Teaches Us that...

- Jesus **KNOWS** me and my deepest needs.
 - Jesus **UNDERSTANDS** my biggest hang-ups.
 - Jesus **CONFRONTS** my deep insecurities and proud boastings.
 - Jesus **INVITES** me to humble myself and become a believer who continues to believe and obey!

Are You Known More for Your Demanding Spirit or for Your Living Faith in the Living Lord?

WHAT Is the LIVING PROOF that Our Lives Are MOTIVATED by the LIVING LORD?

We Will Have a Living Faith Like Thomas!

- We will **worship the Living Lord** with our entire **LIVES**!
No greater confession of lordship: "Jesus is My Lord and my God!"
No greater proof of a living faith than being a living sacrifice in the service of the Lord!
- We will **witness with the Living Word** to the entire **WORLD**!
No greater proclamation for the world: "For God so loved the World!"
No greater proof of a living faith than being a faithful witness to the lost all around you!

Is Your Faith Alive? • Are You Worshipping the Living Lord? • Are You Witnessing with the Living Word?