

Connect Together

What are some similar words to the word, "lord?" Which ones would make the most sense to someone who does not know Him as Lord?

Lesson Verses - John 20:24-29 (CSB)

24 But Thomas (called "Twin"), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples were telling him, "We've seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "If I don't see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe." 26 A week later his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don't be faithless, but believe." 28 Thomas responded to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Study & Apply

1. In Luke 16:31, Jesus taught (via the words of Abraham) that even if someone is raised from the dead, even the religious won't believe in Him.

   a. Despite eyewitness testimony (v.25), why is it that Thomas cannot believe? (John 6:36-40, 44, 65)

   b. How does Thomas finally believe? Why is this unique only to him? (John 14:3-6, 11; John 4:48; Ephesians 2:4-5)

APPLY: Direct evidence of Jesus' miracles and resurrection is no longer available today. How instead can we witness Christ Jesus today? How have you personally given witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ? (Colossians 4:5-6; Ephesians 4:29; 1 Peter 3:15)

2. a. What is significant about Jesus' peace (v.26)? How is it related to what He just accomplished? (John 14:27; Ephesians 2:14-18; John 16:33)

   b. What is our need for peace from God through Jesus Christ? (Romans 5:1-2, 10; Colossians 1:20-22; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

APPLY: Why is it that having definitive proof of the resurrection is not a necessary component of faith? What is the benefit of having faith in the gospel message without proof (v.29, 1 Peter 1:8-9)? Why is faith also necessary for His disciples?

Discuss & Share

We must be careful not to exalt human wisdom above faith in the gospel (1 Corinthians 1:20). Since this is the case, where is the battle of faith going to occur? What are the differences between a religious, logical/head faith, and heart faith (Romans 10:9-10)?

Grow & Minister

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.