



Poor Thomas, he gets a bad press! Imagine for centuries after your life you are remembered by a fleeting failure – jealous Susan or vindictive Colin perhaps? In John chapter 11 however, we read Thomas was willing to die for Jesus, clearly a man who was capable of great devotion and bravery.

Yet here is Thomas doubting the words of his friends who witnessed that Jesus had risen from the dead. We don't know why he missed the first appearance. Perhaps he had visited the empty tomb to ponder the meaning of it all, or what had become of his master's body? But like the women on that first Easter morning Thomas needed to hear 'why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?' He is clearly in sceptical mood.

Jesus lovingly did not reprimand Thomas but reveals the evidence and asks him to focus and to believe. The disciple was shown the marks in his hands from the nails and the visible wounds in his side, to which the disciple exclaims in wonder 'my Lord and my God!' Someone once said the marks in Jesus' hands are the only visible man-made marks in heaven. Jesus clearly understood his death, resurrection and the implication of these events was a lot for a mere human mind and spirit to comprehend. After all each Sunday we talk of the mysteries of our faith 'Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again'.

To doubt is not to sin. We are challenged to have faith throughout scripture as were the disciples in the storm 'oh you of little faith'. Jesus calls us all to be merciful to those who are waiver in their faith as we read in Jude v 22. It is right to speak out our doubts. Doubting out loud is better than disbelieving in silence.

*'We can doubt without living a doubting way of life. Doubts help us clarify what we believe..but doubt was never meant to be a permanent condition. Doubt is one foot lifted, poised to step forward or back. There is no motion until the foot comes down.'*  
(From Student Life Application Study Bible. NLT).

This Easter season whatever our doubts Jesus calls us to focus on him. Only then can we exclaim with Thomas 'my Lord and my God!'