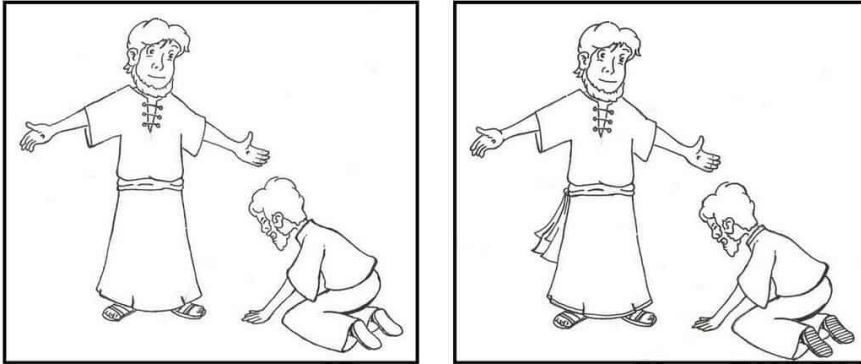


CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?



Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me,
you have believed; blessed are those who have not
seen and yet have believed." John 20:28-29 NIV

Carlos Bautista 2010 | <http://ministry-to-children.com>

May God's blessing surround you each day.

As we trust in and walk in his way;

May His presence within,

Guard and keep us from sin;

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

03/05/2020

Doubting Thomas



“Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” **John 20: 25**

Good morning and welcome to this 7th unprecedented church service.

I've chosen the hymn this morning 'Here I am to Worship'

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=15&v=CoxopsRSfdU&feature=emb_logo)

[time_continue=15&v=CoxopsRSfdU&feature=emb_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=15&v=CoxopsRSfdU&feature=emb_logo))

Light of the world,	King of all days, oh, so highly exalted
You stepped down into darkness	Glorious in heaven above
Opened my eyes, let me see	Humbly You came
Beauty that made this heart adore You	To the earth You created
Hope of a life spent with You	All for love's sake became poor

Here I am to worship

Here I am to bow down

Here I am to say that

You're my God

You're altogether lovely

Altogether worthy

Altogether wonderful to me

[Chorus]

I'll never know

How much it cost

To see my sin

Upon that cross (x3)

Our reading/story today is another short one, but I wonder what we can learn from it. It is taken from John 20:24-29:

DOUBTING THOMAS

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”



There is a very interesting book called "Believe It or Not" by Robert Ripley. Mr. Ripley enjoyed collecting strange and amazing bits of information which, although they seem unbelievable, were true.

Some examples from his book are:

A man by the name of James Cook once had a chicken that laid a perfectly square egg. Now, I've seen white eggs, brown eggs, even spotted eggs, but I have never seen a square egg. Have you? I think I'd have to see it to believe it!

Joann Barnes was a 15-year-old from California, and she once swung a lot of hula-hoops on her body at the same time! How many do you think she swung on her body? 68! Can you believe that? I can't even keep one hula-hoop going. I think I would have to see that to believe it!

This book is filled with things that are very hard for me to believe. But do you know what? If it's true, it's true--whether I believe it or not!

In today's Bible lesson we learn that on the Sunday that Jesus rose from the grave, He appeared to a group of His disciples. One of the disciples, whose name was Thomas, was not with them. When the disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus and that He was alive, Thomas said, "I won't believe it until I see it with my own eyes. I want to put my finger in the nail-prints in His hands—and place my hand where the spear was thrust into His side.

A week later, Thomas saw Jesus. Jesus invited Thomas to touch His hands where the nails had been. He told Thomas to put his hand in the wound in His side. Then Thomas believed! Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

A lot of people today won't believe that Jesus really rose from the grave because they haven't seen Him with their own two eyes. Do you know what? It is true whether they believe it or not! You and I have never seen Jesus, but we believe. We accept Him by faith. We don't have to see it to believe it!

Let us Pray:

Dear Jesus,

Thank You that You help us accept by faith that You have risen from the grave and that You are alive.

In Jesus' name, amen.

