

# WILLING THOMAS

Glenn Robinson

## I) Willing to Risk His Life (John 11:1-16)

A) Who was Thomas?

B) Was he a doubter?

C) What can I learn from Thomas in John 11?

## II) Willing to Ask the questions that everyone was wondering (John 14:1-6)

A) Wouldn't you be confused?

B) His question gets an answer

C) Some common questions:

## III) Willing to Accept the truth (John 20:24-29)

A) Missouri Thomas

B) Doubt versus unbelief

C) Thomas' proclamation Vs. 28

My notes and study materials can be found at my website:  
<http://www.questculvercity.org/resources.html>

Not Vs. by Vs. - Character study in 3 texts.

He was willing...

## **I) WILLING TO RISK HIS LIFE – JOHN 11:16**

### **A) Who was Thomas?**

Only in 12 Vss.

They reveal much.

Surname Didymus - twin.

Eusebius records him in Parthia. i.e. ancient Persia (Iran)

Legends tell of his preaching in India. - dispelled doubts

Gospel of Thomas, Acta Thomae, Revelatio Thomae.

### **B) Was he a doubter?**

Lazarus had died.

Jesus wants to go back to Judea.

The disciples warn Him.

**John 11:7,8** (NIV) Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?"

There were only certain reasons why Jews could stone someone.

**John 10:30,31** (NASB) "I and the Father are one." The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.

**John 8:58,59** (NASB) Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM." Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

**John 5:18** (NASB) For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

Thomas doesn't say "Don't go".

There was no doubt in:

**John 11:16** (NASB) Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, so that we may die with Him."

Thomas is the first to say let's go die with Him.

Are those words of doubt?

He believed that Jesus was the Messiah and savior.

## **C) What can I learn from Thomas in John 11?**

### Dedication and commitment

- He volunteered to die – no one asked or forced him.
- He volunteered everyone else to go with him. – "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Have you ever had anyone else volunteer you? - story.

- He was willing to give his eternal soul to Jesus.

### Questions I must ask myself:

- How important is comfort to me?
- How disciplined am I?
- How dedicated am I?
- What would I choose? Serving self or dying for Christ?

### Conclusions I can draw:

- I should be ready and willing to give my life for Christ at any time.
- I am not there yet. I am not where I should be.

## **II) WILLING TO ASK THE QUESTIONS THAT EVERYONE WAS WONDERING**

### **A) Wouldn't you be confused?**

Jesus says:

- He is going away to prepare a place.
- He will come back.
- He will receive us with Him.
- You know the Way and Where I am going.

Nobody knew what Jesus was talking about.

But Thomas asks "We don't know where you are going and how do we know the way?"

Thomas is willing to:

- Be honest.
- Admit he didn't know.
- Ask – let others know that he doesn't know.

Reasons people don't ask questions: We think:

- Everyone else knows the answer.  
Chances are others have the same question.
- Everyone will think I am stupid.  
People think – its a dumb question.  
We don't ask because of pride.

I love when people ask questions.

- It means they want to grow.  
Children ask questions. Why, they are learning.
- It helps me learn.

Jesus didn't rebuke him.

He answered.

## **B) His question gets an answer**

Jesus answers with an "I AM" statement.

Revealing more of who He is.

Look at what we would have missed if Thomas didn't ask.

Do you ever have questions about your faith that you need answered? I do.

It is not wrong to question the faith.

The faith can stand up to questioning.

There is much I don't understand yet.

**Dr. Graham** - "I have been reading this Bible for over fifty years and still there are parts of it I don't fully understand".

There are answers to your questions but they won't get answered if you don't ask the question.

## **C) Some common questions:**

Is Jesus really the only way to God?

How do I know I can trust the Bible?

Doesn't the Bible contain contradictions?

If God is good, why is there suffering?

What about other religions?

What is the Trinity?

### **III) WILLING TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH – JOHN 20:24-29**

#### **A) Missouri Thomas**

Show me.

Thomas was an empiricist.

You have to be practical – corpses don't resurrect.

- Angels and lights.
- Don't trust women early in the morning in a graveyard.

He asked for evidence.

There is evidence – Christianity is not a blind faith.

Jesus said blessed are those who believe and have not seen.

**1 Peter 1:8** (NKJV) whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

#### **B) Doubt versus unbelief**

Unbelief – a deliberate rejection of the truth in the face of compelling evidence to the contrary.

Doubt – a sincere question and inquiry to find the absolute truth.

He doubted the other disciples, he never denied the resurrection

#### **C) Thomas' proclamation**

**John 20:28** (NASB) Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

ο κυριος μου και ο θεος μου

Gr. - The Lord of me and the God of me.

Some claim – Oh my lord, oh my God.

Thomas was a Jew – Theos.

Jesus was a rabbi.

He would rebuke blasphemy.

He pronounces a blessing.

**Conc:**

May I be as willing as Thomas.