



Wednesday Prayer

2nd Sunday of Easter – Seeing is...Believing?

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, 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. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt 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 come to believe.” John 20:24-29

Poor Thomas. He has gone down in history known as “Doubting Thomas,” the one who didn’t believe the other disciples when they said they had seen the risen Christ. But aren’t we just like Thomas sometimes, unwilling to believe something that we didn’t witness? Eyewitness testimony has been dramatized over and over in television shows, motion pictures, and news networks. “I’ll believe it when I see it” isn’t just a cliché, it is a statement of the most persuasive form of evidence many of us will accept.

When we work with congregations to help them understand what sexual exploitation and trafficking are like, it’s sometimes hard for people to really believe us. I’ve had members of my own congregations say things like, “That sounds awful! But it couldn’t happen **here**, right? I’ve never seen anything like that in our community.” Or, “Why do we need a safe child policy here at church? Surely no sex predators would try anything **here**, would they?” It is a tough job, but those of us who work with programs like Cherish All Children **know** what can happen to young people who mistake a predator’s grooming of them for sincere caring. We know how needy some youngsters are, and how easily they can be drawn in by phony compliments and empty promises, all designed to gain the trust of dangerous felons.

In Jesus’ exchange with Thomas, He offered to let the disciple touch His wounds to prove that He was indeed the risen Christ. Thomas chose to believe, not from placing his hands on Jesus’ body, but by hearing Christ’s voice and bearing witness to the risen Lord who stood before him.

Living God, fill us with your truth and guide us in our ways, to believe even without seeing, to trust even through our doubts, and to act to bear witness to your love. Amen.

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