

Gospel Holes
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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." John 20:27

Everyone likes to talk about silly "doubting" Thomas in this Gospel reading. However, if we spend too much time developing nicknames for Thomas, we miss the most important person in the reading – JESUS!

Think about what Jesus did. He made a special visit just for Thomas. All the other disciples had already seen this play out about a week earlier. Thomas wasn't there and did not believe the witness of the other disciples. Ten of his closest friends had told him that Jesus was alive, and he boldly rejected their claims. He actively "disbelieved" in the Resurrected Jesus. It would seem like Jesus would have every reason to write off Thomas as one of those "disbelievers" who chose his own fate by rejecting the Good News. BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT JESUS DOES!

Jesus comes to Thomas, calls him by name, and presents the "Gospel Holes" in His hands and side for Thomas to see and touch and believe. The result: Saving Faith! This is what Jesus does for us still today. He comes to us in His Word and Sacrament and says, "Here I am! Look, hear, touch, taste, smell, and believe My life given for you!" Jesus now works in and through you to share those same "Gospel Holes" with others. Don't share your judgment. Don't make up nicknames for people that disbelieve. Instead, show them a Crucified and Risen Jesus.