

Jesus is My Lord and My God

John 20:19-31

Ty Barnett

Introduction:

1. First I want to thank the Cullendale Church of Christ for having me on their lectureship, I am truly honored to be here. I also want to thank Rod Halliburton for his generous invitation in means a lot to me to be invited.
2. This is the portrait of Jesus in the eyes of Thomas. Often times what comes out of our mouths first is what is in our hearts, I like to think that Thomas's description of Jesus as "My Lord and my God" is what was in his heart. He could not have done a better job of giving a portrait of Jesus than to use those few words. His belief came with his sight, and his realization of who this was came with his sight. I have felt as I studied this text, a deep sense or desire to show the world what Thomas saw at the very moment he spoke these words. He truly saw Jesus for who he was, and it is our job as Christians to "... let our light so shine before men that they might see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven." (Matt 5:16)

Discussion:

I. THE SETTING.

- A. The disciples have just had to endure the death of Jesus, with all the cruelty and injustice that was done to Jesus.
 1. How could one expect to See Jesus, on a basic level, it was not humanly possible.
 2. It is of course possible that upon hearing of the appearance of Jesus to his disciples was hard to truly understand.
 3. Despite the miraculous occurrences, we can see many examples of people (who have seen the miracles performed) ignore, or refuse to accept the possibilities of God's awesome power. (Pharaoh, Children of Israel during the wanderings, John 6:66)
 4. He had witnesses, yet maybe he thought that they were just wishful thinkers.
- B. There is another possibility as well; possibly he thought that it was so important, that he would check out any and every possibility of falsehood that might exist before believing.
- C. Most likely, he was just as he has been named, doubting Thomas, his response to their claims was, "...Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand unto his side, I will not believe." (John 20:25).

II. HIS REACTION.

- A. Jesus appears unto them again, and again the doors were shut, the setting is the same, except now Thomas is with them.
 1. Jesus responds to Thomas's earlier statement having not been there to hear it. (:27)
 - a. What an encouraging step it would have been for Thomas, you will notice later that Thomas does not touch Jesus yet he believes, this is part of the reason why.
 2. Thomas gives a wonderful portrait of Who Jesus is, in such few words yet so telling.
 3. "...My Lord and my God." (:28)
- B. His reaction to seeing Jesus is what I wish so many in the world, or even in our Lord's Church could truly see Jesus as.
 1. Their Lord and their God, Jesus Christ.

2. To often in many hearts and minds there is a portrait of Jesus as a man that is just a myth, seemingly a fairytale to be thought of as a good story.
3. We have got to change that as a whole, making Jesus real to people so that they might believe, "...that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb 11:6)

III. "MY LORD AND MY GOD."

- A. Webster defines Lord: a ruler, master... one who has dominion over you.
 1. This is a perfect definition as to who and what Jesus is to Thomas and should be to us.
 2. There are many references to who Jesus is, in the N. T. which capture this aspect of Jesus.
 - a. "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, *even* Christ; and all ye are brethren. (Matt 23:8)
 - b. "Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?" (John 1:38)
 - c. And in this very chapter, "Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master."(16)
- B. Others reference came with a question?
 1. "And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? (Matt 10:17)
 2. There are those today asking the same questions yet are being deceived. (Matt 15:9)
 3. Until he is seen by them as Lord and master, their worship will be in vain.
- C. The real question today is he your Lord and Master of all. (Illustration)
 1. If you were asked to give a picture, of Who Jesus was to you, what would it consist of?
 2. Do you have the attitude of Simon Peter when he realized his need to be washed by Jesus, "Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and [*my*] head." (John 13:9)
 3. Is he Lord and master of your life?
- D. Along with acknowledging the most important aspect of the Church, (Christ's resurrection) He also acknowledges the complete deity of Jesus.
 1. Thomas confirms what John has already stated: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1)
 2. Or what he penned in the 14th chapter, "Phillip saith unto him, Lord show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Phillip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, show us the Father? Believeest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?...Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me:" (John 14:8-11)
 3. Ones salvation has to do with one believing that Christ is the Son of God, and thus making him equal with God. (Matt 10:32,33; Phil 2:5-11)
 4. To truly be your Lord and you God, you must believe that he is God.

Conclusion:

1. The setting of this section of texts, explains some of what Thomas might have been feeling or at least some of the thinking behind his words.
2. His reaction to the others claims, as well as his reaction to Jesus tells us about his willingness to accept the truth.
 - a. "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou has believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. (:29)
 - b. Some today have tested God, saying, "give me a sign and I will believe you."

- c. God does not work in that manner anymore, he has given us these signs so that all may believe. (:30-31)
- 3. Though there are those testing God, there are also those that should be a member of his Church, we just have to find them, or be available so they can find us.
 - a. Then can Jesus truly be their Lord and their God.
 - b. God bless you and keep you.