



## THOMAS / DIDYMUS

### PERSONAL INFORMATION:

#### Nickname/Other:

Thomas – Greek *Thomas* is of Chaldee origin meaning “twin.” (Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18; Lk 6:15; Jn 11:16; 14:5; 20:24-29; 21:2)

Thomas called Didymus (Thomas is a prolongation of “dis” meaning “again, twice” in the Greek meaning double or twin) is the Greek equivalent to the Hebrew name Thomas, both meaning “twin” (Jn 11:16; 20:24)

“Doubting Thomas” because of his doubt concerning the resurrection of Jesus (John 20:24-29). This text is only found in the Gospel of John.

#### General Information:

We have no record of Thomas’s birth or death. He lived during the time of Jesus, 4-33 AD.

Hometown/Region: Galilee, although the town is unknown

Lived in Galilee, by the sea.

It is unknown what Thomas did before he had an encounter with the Christ, but many commentators believe he was a fisherman. Other’s believe that like Jesus, Thomas was a carpenter.

#### Family:

Father and mother - unknown

Thomas was a twin (Jn 20:24). We know nothing of his brother or sister (twin).

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<sup>1</sup> Apostle St. Thomas, Museo de El Greco, Toledo

## MINISTRY INFORMATION:

### Major Accomplishments during Jesus' Ministry:

Was an eyewitness of Jesus' baptism, ministry, and resurrection, for about three years

Present for the baptism of Jesus (Mt 3:13-16; Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-23) in accordance with Acts 1:21-23

Like the others, he deserted Christ during Jesus' trials and crucifixion.

Although Thomas's calling is not known, he left everything to follow Jesus

Healed and preached (Mt 10:1; Ac 3-4:8)

Listed among the Twelve disciples/Apostles of Jesus (Mt 10:2-4; Mk 3:16-19; Luke 6:14-16)

Sent out by Jesus to preach "the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand", heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast out demons (Mt 10:1-42; Mk 6:7-13; Lk 9:1-10)

Without any thought for his own or the other's lives, Thomas encouraged the disciples to go with Jesus to Bethany, to die with their Master (Jn 11:16)

While many will always remember Thomas as "doubting Thomas," it is very important that we look at the "whole picture" of Thomas's character. Only he was ready to die with Christ (John 11:16). That showed great courage as the other disciples tried to talk Jesus out of going back to Judea (John 11:8) when news came that Lazarus had died. Their argument was pure understandable as it was well known that the Jews wanted to capture and stone Him (John 11:7-9)

In the upper room, at the Last Supper, Jesus was giving the Apostles comfort in proclaiming that he was going to prepare a place for them. Thomas said, "Lord, we know not where you are going; how can we know the way?" (Jn 14:5)

Was with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mt 26:36; Mk 14:32-42; Lk 22:39-46; Jn 18:1)

Deserted Christ during Jesus' trials and crucifixion

### Major Accomplishments after Jesus' Ministry:

After the resurrection, Jesus showed himself to the ten, Thomas was absent. When he returned the Apostles told him that Jesus showed himself in their presence. Thomas doubted; "unless I see His scars in Jesus hands and feet or put his hand into his side where the spear opened his skin, he would not believe." (Jn 20:25)

I would like to remind us that grief takes on several stages. They include, 1) Shock, Denial, and Isolation. 2) Pain and Guilt. 3) Anger and Bargaining. 4) Depression, Reflection, and loneliness. 5) Reconstruction and Working Through. 7) Acceptance.

Thomas made a public profession concerning Jesus after Jesus' resurrection, "My Lord and my God." (Jn 20:28)

While waiting on Jesus at the sea of Tiberias, was present when the disciples went fishing. (Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, and John, and two others, Jn 21:2) He would have witnessed the miraculous catch of fish and ate breakfast with Jesus after his resurrection (Jn 21:2-7)

Was present when Jesus gave the Great Commission (Mt 28:16-20)

Was present when Jesus was taken up to heaven (Ac 1:8-9)

Was present in the upper room with the other disciples and Apostles (Ac 1:10-14)

Listed with the other Apostles (Ac 1:13)

Listed in the upper room with Peter, James, John, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Mt, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon Zelotes and Judas the brother of James. (Ac 1:13) at the choosing of Mathias to replace Judas (Ac 1:13)

Present in the upper room at Pentecost (Ac 2:1)

Tradition of the early church says that he traveled to India to start churches and spread the Gospel.

Manner of Death:

Tradition of the early church believed that Thomas was killed with a lance and buried in India.

Writings

Non-canonical writings only:

The Gospel of Thomas (also known as the Coptic Gospel of Thomas)

Scripture References:

Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18; Lu 6:15; Jn 11:16; 14:5; 20:24, 26-29; 21:2; Ac 1:13

Strongest Character Traits:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## NOTES:

It is interesting that Jesus did not criticize Thomas for doubting. However, Jesus pointed out that though Thomas had the chance to see and touch Jesus, there would be many who would come after Thomas who would believe though they could not see Jesus in the flesh (Jn 20:24-29).