

The doubting of Thomas the Apostle is shocking to us. After all he was with Jesus for 3 years. He witnessed His miracles, he heard His many teachings. But Thomas' personality had not changed. But then there was this marvelous event. Jesus appears to His disciples a second time.

Does Jesus scold Thomas for his lack of faith? Imagine all that Jesus had been through! After calling Thomas to follow Him, wouldn't Jesus be angry with Thomas? But no, He lovingly, patiently invites Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands and bring your hand and put it into my side and do not be unbelieving but believe."

Thomas cries out joyfully, "My Lord and my God." Then Jesus speaks these wonderful words, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Imagine the wonderful mercy of Jesus! He may have been deeply hurt by the misbelief of Thomas, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my hand into His side I will not believe." But Jesus mercifully extends His hands, shows Thomas His side.

Today we celebrate the divine and human mercy of Jesus. Jesus is pouring His mercy into your life. It isn't unusual for people, even you and I to judge ourselves harshly, even to condemn ourselves. But if Jesus extends to you His pierced hands and wounded side, then how deeply He loves you, how deeply He wants to forgive you, to mercifully heal you.

I invite you to say these words of Thomas again and again to Jesus "My Lord and my God." As the priest holds up the host at Communion time, "My Lord and my God." As you go to bed at night, "My Lord and my God."

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe!

St. Thomas, pray for us!