

# Jesus 101

## “Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

*"Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." –John 20:25.*

Thomas sounds very much like a skeptic today, “I will never believe the reality you are talking about unless I have some empirical evidence to back it up. I need more than just faith, I need proof! I cannot believe unless I see and touch!” But Jesus understands Thomas, and how his lack of faith and his what-if attitude to life is affecting him. Jesus does not condemn him. Instead He shows him His extraordinary compassion! When Jesus appears to the disciples again a week later and Thomas is with them (verse 26), He goes straight to the heart of the matter. He does not ignore Thomas’ struggles. Amazingly He is willing to meet his conditions. “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing” (verse 27).

Thomas is stunned by the compassion of Jesus! All of a sudden the glass does not seem so empty anymore. Somehow his what-ifs have vanished! He has given up his need for evidence, proofs, and tests. Jesus has reignited his fledgling faith into a raging fire! And a most beautiful and powerful confession spontaneously escapes his lips, “My Lord and my God!” (verse 28). This is a genuine leap of faith, a leap from evidence-based existence in the what-if world to a miracle in God’s reality, where all things are possible. And this is the *only* time someone in the Gospels calls Jesus “God” —not only “Son of God,” which was a royal title for many rulers—but actually God! My God! Isn’t it amazing what Jesus’ extraordinary compassion creates in our souls?

Later Jesus said, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are *they* who did not see, and yet believed” (verse 29; emphasis added). *They* include everyone, even you and me, as we eventually believe in Jesus without actually seeing Him. And we are blessed!

Do you find yourself awakened at night by your own what-ifs? Does the glass seem half empty whenever life gets tough? Do you demand evidence before you take a leap of faith? You are in good company. Remember Thomas. Through His extraordinary compassion Jesus turned Thomas’s life upside down and inside out! He is active in your life too. The question is—will you allow Him to give you peace through His extraordinary compassion so that He can take away all of your what-ifs and doubts? He died for our sins, rose to life, and has guaranteed our salvation. We can stop expecting the worst and start expecting the best because He is our Lord and our God! And our whole life (present and eternal) is in *His hands*; and believe me, His are more than *capable hands*!