

NCS MESSAGE GUIDE

TOPIC: Benefits of Living an Honest Life

SCRIPTURE: John 20:24-28

CENTRAL TRUTH: We become more of who God intends us to be when we live an honest life.

PRAYER: Father in Heaven, help me to become a more honest person with myself, others, and you.

Scripture

24 One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. 25 They told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

26 Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!"

28 "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.

Message Summary

Sadly, Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, is known today as "Doubting Thomas" because of his struggle to believe that Jesus had truly risen from the grave after he was crucified. In reality Thomas was being true and honest with himself and his friends in admitting that he could not believe unless he touched the risen Jesus. This is a moment of honesty and transparency for Thomas. We can apply this principle we see in the story of Thomas by beginning to live a more honest and transparent life with Jesus, others, and ourselves.

Questions to Consider

1. How can you join Thomas in sharing with Jesus what is hard for you to believe right now?
2. What are the things that holds us back from being a more vulnerable and honest person with God and others? What are ways to remove those barriers?
3. Why is it hard sometimes to accept that Jesus loves us where we're at?

Daily Spiritual Practice

Monday

- Listen to the song "I Am Loved" by Matt Brock

Tuesday

- Read Psalm 139 and reflect for 3 minutes on the scripture.

Wednesday

- Take time today to pray and be real with God. Ask Him questions, tell Him how you feel, and tell Him what it is that has been on your mind.

Thursday

- Tell someone close with you, who you can trust, about your interaction with God and your prayer to Him from Wednesday .

Friday

- Listen to the song "No Turning Back" by Israel & New Breed.