



Session Eleven:
Who Do You Trust?
 6-12-03

The true-blue skeptic will never sign onto the Christian faith, because becoming a Christian demands confidence in someone beyond your own experience.

There is no human being now alive--not the Pope, not Billy Graham, not even Oral Roberts, who has seen the Founder himself, Jesus Christ. Every single Christian has made an eternally binding decision based on the reliability of eye witnesses who have been dead for nineteen centuries. How could they buy into their testimony about Jesus after all this time? They have confidence in someone beyond their own experience.

Is that hard for you? It was for Thomas, too, and he knew the witness personally! His encounter with them, and his discussion with Jesus later, provide an understanding for us of this critical issue!

1. The disciples have confidence in Jesus

John 20:19-23

- They were overcome by fear vs. 19
- They were transformed by evidence vs. 20
- They were commissioned as emissaries vs. 21
- They were equipped with power vs. 22-23

2. Thomas lacks confidence in the disciples

John 20:24-25

- He missed the opportunity to see Jesus vs. 24
- He received the testimony of those who saw Jesus vs. 25a
- He rejected the testimony of those who saw Jesus vs. 25b

3. Thomas expressed confidence in Jesus

John 20:26-28

- He is present in a controlled environment vs. 26
- He is presented with irrefutable facts vs. 27a
- He is commanded to reach a conclusion vs. 27b-28

4. Thomas expresses confidence in his strategy

John 20:29-31

- He will provide the faith to believe vs. 29
Ephesians 2:8-9
- He will limit the information to the minimum vs. 30
Revelation 22:18-19
- He will redeem the believer through the gospel vs. 31
I Corinthians 15:1-4

Essence

“Stop doubting and believe.”

John 20:27b