

Lostock Parish Church 9am & 10.30am Sunday 3rd April 2016

John 6:26

²⁶ Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.'

John 6:28-31

²⁸ Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?'

²⁹ Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.'

³⁰ So they asked him, 'What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?' ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

John 12:37

³⁷ Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!'

But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'

²⁸ Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

'Doubting' Thomas, a true story of real doubt turning into real faith.

"If only I'd been there. If only I could see the risen Jesus with my own eyes, see the miracles, hear his teaching first hand... then I'd believe."

Not true. Not possible.

If we don't understand a miracle (/sign) then it doesn't matter how many times we see or hear about it, we are not going to believe and therefore the sign is not going to give rise to faith and life within us.

Jesus said "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



Christianity
EXPLORED

A seven session course giving you time and space to think through who Jesus is and why he matters.

Beginning 7.30pm Tuesday 12th April at Lostock Parish Centre.

To book your place, fill in a card and put it into the box at the back of church or book online at www.deanechurch.org

www.christianityexplored.org