

“The Conversion of a Skeptic”

(Easter Sunday Morning April 17th, 2022)

Passage: John 20:24-29

- a. One Reason That Jesus Didn't Show Himself to the Jewish Leaders After His Resurrection is That He Knew It Wouldn't Have W_____

Luke 16:27-28 “27 ...'Then I beg you, father (Abraham), that you send him (Lazarus) to my father's house — 28 for I have five brothers — in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'”

Luke 16:29 “(Abraham Answered) ...'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'”

Luke 16:30 “(The Rich Man Replied) ‘...No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’”

Luke 16:31 “(Abraham Disagree and Said)... ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

- b. Another Reason Jesus Did Not Appear to the Jewish Leaders After His Resurrection is That Israel Had R_____ Him as Their Messiah

Matt 23:37-38 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling”

I. The R_____ for Thomas' Skepticism

- 1) His D_____

John 11:16 “Thomas therefore, who is called Didymus, said to {his} fellow disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with Him’”

John 14:1-4 “1 ‘Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 ‘And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, {there} you may be also. 4 ‘And you know the way where I am going.’”

John 14:5 “(Thomas Said) ...‘Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?’”

This is one of the problems that skeptics encounter; sometimes they go too far in trying to understand God on the basis of h_____ I_____.

Isa 55:9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts”

- 2) His I_____

- a. On the One Hand, It Tells Us That Spiritual Isolation is Deadly for Spiritual L_____

Heb 10:24 (Reference)

Matt 11:3 “(John the Baptist Asked) ...Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?”

- b. On the Other Hand, It Tells Us That Spiritual Community is Deadly for Spiritual S_____

Rom 10:17 (Reference)

Ps 107:2 “Let the redeemed of the Lord says so...”

II. The R_____ for Thomas' Skepticism

1) His O_____

A lot of skeptics do this; a lot of skeptics present their own c_____ for b_____, and it is usually based on something unreasonable and selfish.

Luke 23:39 "One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, 'Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!'"

a. Their Testimonies Were C_____

b. Their Testimonies Were C_____

c. Their Testimonies Were C_____

Matt 28:6 "(The Angel Said) He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying"

1 Cor 15:5-6 "5 ...He (Referring to Jesus) appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep"

2) His E_____

1 Cor 2:14 "...a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, ... and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised"

a. First, Our Lord's C_____, Because He Made It Clear to Thomas That He Knew About the Two Fold Test That He Had Proposed

b. Second, Our Lord's C_____ Because Jesus Came Down to Thomas' Level and Invited Him to Touch His Hands and His Side

1 Pet 1:8-9 "8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls."

Rom 10:9 "9 ...if you (will) confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Emphasis Added)