

THE STORY HOUSTON: **inspiring non-religious Houstonians** to follow Jesus

# CHASING HOPE: how ordinary people make extraordinary disciples

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PART 6 – THE APOSTLE THOMAS: FROM OBEDIENCE TO FAITH | 3.1.20 |  
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## INTRO TO CHASING HOPE

What do the lives of Jesus' first disciples teach us about authentic Christianity? What inspiration can we glean from those women and men who gave it all to follow him? Each week in this series we're taking an up-close, between-the-lines look at some of the everyday people who chose to follow Jesus, and we'll find ourselves in each story.

## THE APOSTLE THOMAS: FROM OBEDIENCE TO FAITH

What are the biggest assumptions you've made about people who consider themselves skeptics?

What have you changed about yourself to more effectively minister to people who have deep doubts?

## INTRO TO THOMAS

How would you describe Thomas the disciple, based on the following passages?

- Luke 14:1-14 (Jesus comforts the disciples)
- John 11:8-16 (The Death of Lazarus)
- John 20:24-29 (Jesus Appears to Thomas)

## FROM OBEDIENCE INTO FAITH

What are the differences between the times when Jesus "wakes people up," or resuscitates them, and His own resurrection?

When is Thomas' turning point, from obedience into faith?

## **BIBLE PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S MESSAGE**

**John 20:24-29:** "Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God! Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

**John 11:17-37:** "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

**John 11:8-16:** "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light." After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Then Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."