

Saint Study Podcast

Saint Thomas the Apostle

Podcast # 104

- **Hello everyone and welcome to Saint Study Episode 104 – “St. Thomas the Apostle”**
 - *Thank you for joining us – maybe we can all learn enough today that by the end of the program we will say, “I didn’t know that” (But now I do!)*
 - *What is a saint? A Canonized Saint is someone recognized by the Church as having led a life of great charity & heroic virtue. Their example of how to conquer any sin imaginable is so important that it was worth recognizing these men & women in a significant way. Anyone (canonized or not) whose soul was cleansed in Purgatory and now resides in Heaven is a Saint.*
- **We always begin our learning by inviting the Holy Spirit to be with us...**
 - *In the Name Of The Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Amen.*
 - *Dear Heavenly Father we ask you to be with us as we hear about the lives of your Saints. We ask that our minds be open and that you may fill us with the knowledge that was so loved by the men and women who lived lives of heroic virtue and great charity. Allow us to understand and emulate these Saints who we now know are in your company. In your name we pray, Amen.*
- **Let’s look at The Saint for this weeks study St. Thomas The Apostle...**
 - Saints Birth, Life-Bio, Death, Feast Day,
 - Nothing is known about his birth or childhood.
 - His name in Aramaic (Te’oma) and Greek (Didymos) means “twin”
 - John 11:16 identifies him as “Thomas called Didymus” (the twin)
 - John 11 also shows us how devoted to Jesus that Thomas was...
 - when Jesus announced His intention of returning to Judea to visit Lazarus, "Thomas" who is called Didymus [the twin], said to his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16)
 - Again it was St. Thomas who during the discourse before the Last Supper raised an objection: "Thomas saith to him: Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" (John 14:5)
 - St. Thomas is chiefly remembered for his skepticism when the other Apostles announced Christ's Resurrection to him:

Oral
Tradition

Courtesy
Newadvent
.org

- "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25)
- eight days afterward Thomas made his act of faith, drawing down the rebuke of Jesus: "Because thou hast seen me, Thomas, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and have believed" (John 20:29)
- At the division of the Apostles, India fell to the lot of Thomas, but he declared his inability to go, whereupon his Master Jesus appeared in a supernatural way to Abban, the envoy of Gundafor, an Indian king, and sold Thomas to him to be his slave and serve Gundafor as a carpenter.
- Then Abban and Thomas sailed away until they came to Andrapolis, where they landed and attended the marriage feast of the ruler's daughter. Strange occurrences followed and Christ under the appearance of Thomas exhorted the bride to remain a Virgin.
- Coming to India Thomas undertook to build a palace for Gundafor, but spend the money entrusted to him on the poor. Gundafor imprisoned him; but the Apostle escaped miraculously and Gundafor was converted.
- Going about the country to preach, Thomas met with strange adventures from dragons and wild asses. Then he came to the city of King Misdai (Syriac Mazdai), where he converted Tertia the wife of Misdai and Vazan his son.
- After this he was condemned to death, led out of city to a hill, and pierced through with spears by four soldiers.
- He was buried in the tomb of the ancient kings but his remains were afterwards removed to the West.
- He formed many parishes and built many churches along the way to India.
- St. Thomas built the first church in India with his own hands
- Stabbed with a spear c.72 in while in prayer on a hill in Mylapur, India
- buried near the site of his death
- relics later moved to Edessa, Mesopotamia
- relics moved to Ortona, Italy in the 13th century
- An old tradition says that Thomas baptized the wise men from the Nativity into Christianity.
- His feast day is July 3rd.

- Patronage
 - **is the patron saint for**

against blindness	against doubt
architects	blind people
builders	construction workers
Ceylon	East Indies
geometricians	India
masons	Pakistan
people in doubt	Sri Lanka
stone masons	stonecutters
surveyors	theologians

- Prayer to Saint Thomas the Apostle

Dear Saint Thomas, you were once slow in believing that Christ had gloriously risen; but later, because you had seen him, you exclaimed: "My Lord and my God!" According to an ancient story, you rendered most powerful assistance for constructing a church in a place where pagan priests opposed it. Please bless architects, builders and carpenters that through them the Lord may be honored. Amen.

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- Conclusions – Interesting notes about their life or sainthood
 - Isn't it interesting how after all that St. Thomas knew about Jesus and what He expected the apostles to do for him that it took being a prisoner & slave to make him realize that what God wants for us is real.
 - Yet St. Thomas still (at first) resisted. He doubted himself. Has this ever happened to you? Has your faith been low? Remember that's where faith comes in. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you on your journey. Get the "spiritual fuel" you need to follow Jesus.

- From a homily by Pope Saint Gregory the Great (saints.sqpn.com)

"Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came." He was the only disciple absent; on his return he heard what had happened but refused to believe it. The Lord came a second time; he offered his side for the disbelieving disciple to touch, held out his hands, and showing the scars of his wounds, healed the wound of disbelief. Dearly beloved, what do you see in these events? Do you really believe that it was by chance that this chosen disciple was absent, then came and heard, heard and doubted, doubted and touched, touched and believed? It was not by chance but in God's providence. In a marvelous way God's mercy arranged that the disbelieving disciple, in touching the wounds of his master's body, should heal our wounds of disbelief. The disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the faith of the other disciples. As he touches Christ and is won over to belief, every doubt is cast aside and our faith is strengthened. So the disciple who doubted, then felt Christ's wounds, becomes a witness to the reality of the resurrection. Touching Christ, he cried out: "My Lord and my God." Jesus said to him: "Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed." Paul said: "Faith is the guarantee of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen." It is clear, then, that faith is the proof of what cannot be seen. What is seen gives knowledge, not faith. When Thomas saw and touched, why was he told: "You have believed because you have seen me?" Because what he saw and what

he believed were different things. God cannot be seen by mortal man. Thomas saw a human being, whom he acknowledged to be God, and said: “My Lord and my God.” Seeing, he believed; looking at one who was true man, he cried out that this was God, the God he could not see. What follows is reason for great joy: “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” There is here a particular reference to ourselves. We are included in these words, but only if we follow up our faith with good works. The true believer practices what he believes. But of those who pay only lip service to faith, Paul has this to say: “They profess to know God, but they deny him in their works.” Therefore James says: “Faith without works is dead.”

- e-mails
- Homework
 - What determines a Saints Feast Day?
- Preview of next episode
 - **St. Matthew The Apostle**
- References, Plugs & Web Sites
 - **EWTN Television Network**
 - www.ewtn.com – Best reference site
 - <http://www.usccb.org> The US Conference of Catholic Bishops
 - <http://www.vatican.va/> - Official Vatican Web Site
 - www.Newadvent.org
 - <http://www.saints.sqpn.com>
 - **New American Bible**

1 Peter 3:15 - 16

...Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame.

**May The Peace of our Lord
Be always with you...Have a good day!**