



LOVE MUST ACT

Partnerships for Sustainable Education

*"Love Must Act as light must shine and fire must burn."
-Fr. James Otis Sargent Huntington, OHC*

The Salvation of Thomas



Thomas is generally remembered as the doubter, the one who turned his back on the news of the Resurrection. That's a bit unfair, I think, and it certainly isn't the whole story (Jn. 20:19-31). I think the truth is that Thomas knew what mattered most.

The story takes place over two successive Sundays. The first is Easter Day. Jesus appeared to a group of disciples gathered behind a locked door out of fear. Nothing can be more antithetical to Easter than fear that locks others out.

Thomas was not with the others that first Sunday. When they told him, "We have seen the Lord," Thomas responded, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe" (v. 25). Perhaps he had fears of his own. Who wouldn't?

The next week, this time with Thomas present, Jesus appeared again. He offered Thomas the objective "proof" he had demanded, saying, "' Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God'" (vv. 27-28).

This is what I find so interesting. Thomas may have been defiant about touching the wounds, but he did not take the opportunity when given it. Jesus offered him the proof, but Thomas instead jumped immediately to a startling confession of faith—"My Lord and my God!"—the first person ever to do so. What he believed *about* Jesus was less important than the relationship he had *with* Jesus.

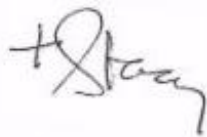
It all comes together in how John ends the story. Verse 31 makes the point in its use of the word *to believe*. "These are written so that you may come to

believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through *believing* you may have life in his name.” It is important that the word *believe* is followed by the conjunction *that* and the word *believing* is not.

To believe *that* something, as in to believe “that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God” is a question of what one knows, a statement of historical fact about what happened, or a statement of scientific fact about how it happened, or at least an opinion about a fact. Not so with *believing*. Believing is an action in and of itself. It is a state of being, a quality more than a fact. It’s not about what your opinion is. It’s about what you’re betting the farm on. In the case of the former, John used the word *that* to express his idea. In the case of the latter, he did not. Having life is not about your opinions or what you think with your head or what you know (that’s actually an ancient heresy called Gnosticism). Having life is about something more courageous than having an opinion. It is about acting. It’s about what we might say is believing *in* someone and not about believing *that* much of anything.

The Gospel is relational and not historical. What is salvific is a relationship. I would argue it’s the only thing that really matters. Love is the only thing that lasts. Any legacy that matters is in love and has absolutely nothing to do with accomplishments or monuments, which will inevitably pass away. Salvation is betting the farm on a relationship, having the courage to take a relational risk when there are no guarantees. That’s true of the Resurrection. Salvation is not in what you think happened to the body. It is betting the farm on being in a relationship with Jesus. It’s not what’s in your head that saves you. It’s what’s in your heart.

Agape,



Bishop Stacy Sauls
Founder and President

Bishop Sauls' weekly reflection will appear on our [website](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

"Come and See" *Jn. 1:39*

As John tells the story, a group of John the Baptist’s disciples were standing by and saw Jesus. After John’s build up they were more than a little curious. Jesus asked them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’ He said to them, ‘Come and see.’”

Love Must Act invites you to come and see where Jesus has been known to stay.

The first opportunity is to see what Love Must Act is accomplishing in partnership with St. John's Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. We depart on April 1, 2022 and return on April 12, having spent Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week in

Jerusalem. We'll see all the pilgrimage sites but pay particular attention to the work of St. John among what its founder, Blessed Gerard, called "our Lords the sick and the poor" in the eleventh century. A brochure will be published soon. Please let us know if you'd like to receive a hard copy.

The second opportunity is to explore the educational challenges of post-Apartheid South Africa and solutions offered by the Holy Cross model and Love Must Act. We expect exact dates and further information to be available within the month.



Help Love Last



Like most nonprofits, our donations are stronger at the end of the year than mid-year. We hope you might consider an Easter gift of thanksgiving to keep the work going. Gifts may be made [here](#) or by mail to:

3044 Bardstown Road, Ste. 242
Louisville, KY 40205-3020

Thank you.

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Act Now

