

Reflection Monday Week 13 St Thomas the Apostle 2023

The apostle Thomas is known for doubting the resurrection of Jesus. Yet, if he is the sceptical apostle, he is also the believing apostle, for having seen and touched the risen Jesus, he made the immediate leap of faith and became the first apostle to call Jesus God.

Nothing is known about Thomas's later career. An apocryphal document, the *Acts of Thomas* tells of his missionary journeys to Persia and India. Although it is not historical evidence, it still bears witness to the likelihood that Thomas went to India. The very fact that the heretics used a journey of St Thomas to support their case shows us that, in the third century, they believed that such a journey was possible. The journey would have been easy enough as important trade routes lay that way. While some apostles went west, to Rome, the centre of the world, it is possible that some chose to go east, to the edge of the known world. Although we will never know for certain, the Christians of Kerala have called themselves for centuries "St Thomas Christians".

We learn from St Thomas that the greater our failure, when recognised and acknowledged, it leads to a much deeper faith and belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

We all have doubts at different points in our lives. Many of them we fail to see and accept and suffer the consequences. G.K Chesterton was brought to faith because of the Christian paradox as expressed in yesterday's gospel. "Losing life, you gain life" "if you find your life you will lose it", "love your enemies".

Quotes attributed to Thomas the Apostle:

He who is humble easily obeys everyone, fears to offend anyone, is at peace with everyone, is kind with all.

Humility, which is a virtue, is always fruitful in good works.

Jesus said, recognize what is in your sight, and that which is hidden from you will become plain to you. For there is nothing hidden that shall not become manifest.