

Stained Heroes

"Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰ Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:24-31 (NIV)

The three great fears that our stain produces:

- I. The fear of emotional weakness

"I will not believe it" (vs. 25)

- II. The fear of what others think

"The doors were locked" (vs. 26)

- III. The fear of total surrender

"Stop doubting and believe" (vs. 27)

The goal of the resurrection is life in His name!

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (vs. 31)

Small Group Questions:

1. In the world of your spiritual life, how much has **fear** played a part?
2. Do you think fear is a matter of your will or is it a matter of understanding when it comes to making change?
3. How much does "what other people think" enter into your fears?
4. What possibilities might God unleash in your life if fear was no longer an issue?
5. Share with your group what a life on "daily resurrection" would look like for you.