***John 20:27-29 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” 28And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” 29Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”***

This morning, we’re with the disciples, including Thomas, eight days after the resurrection. Thomas wasn’t with the disciples when Christ first appeared to them. In verse 26, Thomas said - *Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe*. In other words, unless I DO, I will not BE. Over the last several weeks, we’ve talked about believing not just in Christ’s abilities but in His identity, not just in His works, but in His Divinity, not just in what He does, but who He Is. Remember that in all of our studies, there are many that believed the works, but rejected the Savior. Here we see Thomas saying, Unless I can verify Him physically, I will not believe. And so often today, we walk, not by Faith, but by sight. We look for proof, rather than resting in Promise. Jesus says – rest in Promise and stop looking for proof. Proof fades. Proof fails. Promise is forever. When we believe, we will see the glory of God.

Verse 27 starts - *Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side.”* Jesus has appeared in the midst of the disciples. Thomas is there. In verse 26, Jesus greets them with. “Peace to you.” Then He turns directly to Thomas and satisfies the proof Thomas has asked for – Unless I see nail prints. Thomas, look at My hands. Unless I touch the nail prints. Thomas, reach your finger here. Unless I put my hand into His side. Thomas, reach your hand and put it into My side. Jesus is saying – Thomas, you asked to see the works – here’s the proof. See the proof and believe the Promise. See the works and know My Divinity.

Verse 27 finishes - *Do not be unbelieving, but believing.* In John 10:37, Jesus said – *If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me*. Here, He tells Thomas much the same thing – If you do not believe what I told you, if you do not believe the eyewitness reports, at least believe the evidence… believe the work, and through the work, believe that the Father completed the work. Jesus cried from the Cross – It is finished. What is finished? The Work… The Proof has come, the Promise is here. Do not **BE** unbelieving. Do not choose to ignore the works, overlook the proof, give in to your desperately deceived heart, but be believing. This Greek word for BE has the idea of becoming. Become belief. Become so in love with Jesus that every work, every breath flows from this place of love and belief.

Jesus says the same to us. Who do you say that I am? Do you believe this? Do not be unbelieving, waiting on the proof, but believing, resting in His Promise. Choose to dwell in a place of belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Do not choose unbelief, but belief.

How does Thomas respond in verse 28? *And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”* Based on the evidence, Thomas believes. Based on the work, he sees Christ. We’ve no idea if Thomas actually reached forth his hand. Perhaps Jesus’ appearance was enough. Regardless, Thomas moves from hearing the claims of Jesus to believing the Divinity of Jesus. He no longer just knows of Him. He knows Him. Peter proclaimed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Martha proclaimed, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” Thomas now says, “My Lord and my God!” An encounter with Jesus has the same result on people today.

Verse 29, let’s hear Jesus response *Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”* Thomas, proof led you to Promise. Blessed are those that believe Promise first and then see the proof of blessing all around. When we believe, we see. Listen to Jesus speaking to Martha in John 11:40 - *Jesus said to her, Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?*

Likewise, blessed are those that believe and take up the Cross daily, believe and work for the Kingdom they believe in. Blessed are those that believe, even when it’s dark, even when life is painful, even when peace seems far away, even when they don’t understand. Blessed are they that do not need to see in order to believe, but believe in Jesus and trust that they will one day see the very glory of God.

This week consider – are we existing in unbelief or are we becoming belief? Are we looking for proof or are we embracing Promise? Is He simply a good teacher filled with good works or is He the Christ, the Son of the Living God? Who do you say He Is? Our willingness to fall in love with Jesus, serve Him, and let His work flow through us tells the story. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Let’s not DO believing, but BE believing. Two little letters that make an eternal difference.