## MYJOURNEY TO THE EMPTY TOMB

John 20:26-31 From Conversion to Witness

- Salvation (Acts 2:38) is personal. There is no "formula." Jesus met his "lost" disciples where each of them were. He will do the same for you and me today.
  - A. Acts 2:38 Salvation.
  - B. All fled. Thursday PM.
  - C. All, but Judas, were "found "by Jesus:
    - 1. Mary and the women. J 20:15-17
    - 2. Two on the Emmaus Road. Lk 24:32
    - 3. Peter. Lk 24:34
    - 4. The 10 disciples (Thomas not there) J 20:20f
    - 5. Thomas. J 20:25-27
  - D. Can you relate?

 We can "read" Thomas' thoughts by his emotions and his actions. His thoughts "moved him" away from everyone, even the hope of a risen Savior. He mattered to Christ.

"Ruminate" – to think deeply about something.

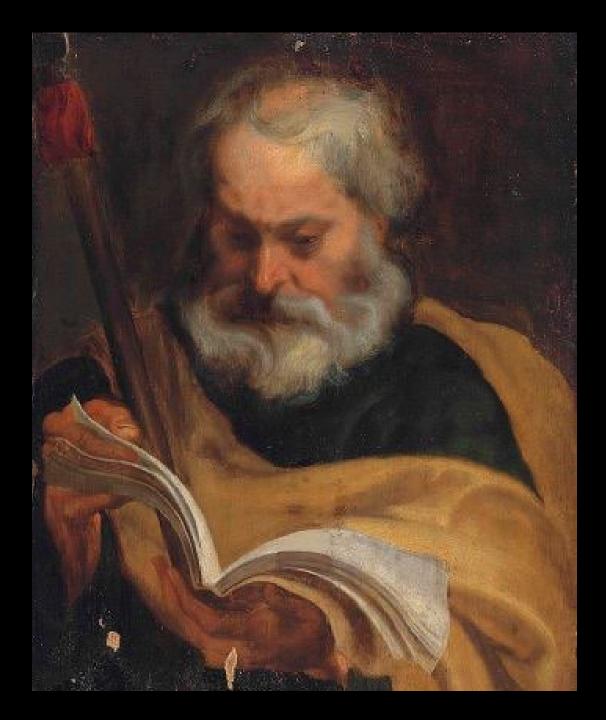
- A. Thomas isolation? v26.
- B. Thomas emotion filled, v 25.
- C. Thursday night? John 14:
  - V1. ...Believe in God...in Me
  - V6. ... way, truth, life
  - V18. ... orphans

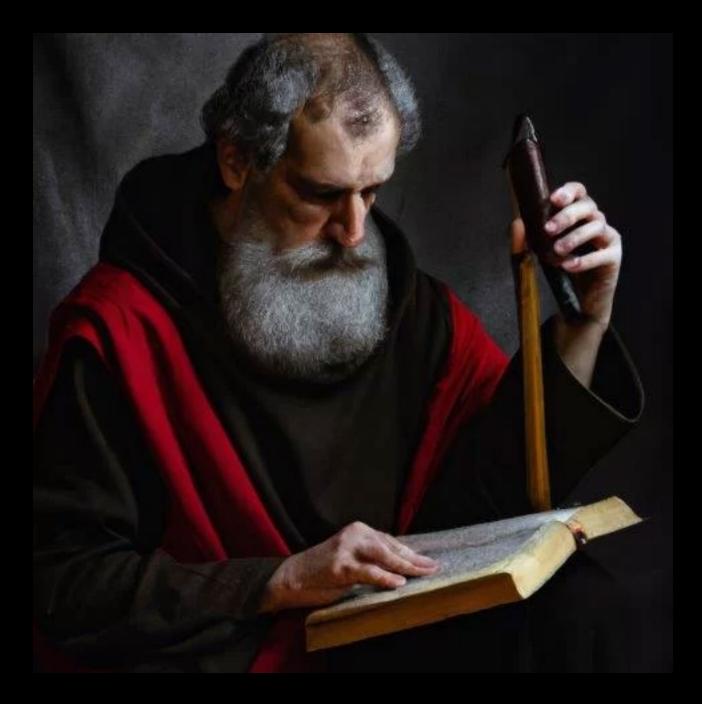
D. What about you and me? "Read "yourself?

- 3. There is no greater evidence that Jesus is alive than a believer who has a "reframed" view of life, post crisis; and, that view becomes their life-purpose.
  - Jn 20:28-31
- 1. Thomas was martyred for his faith in India.
- 2. Thomas later was proclaimed "St Thomas" to the Syrian Christians in India.
- 3. Apostle of India.
- 4. Patron Saint of architects, builders, and stone masons.

- The story of Thomas is written to help us believe. Would you let the story help you believe today?
- Jn. 20:28-29 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (ESV)
- Jn. 20:30-31











## Next Steps

- A. 20 in 24. Take 20 minutes a day to read the Bible and pray in 2024. Get back on the track!
- B. Will you share your story of Jesus with one person this coming week?
- C. Will you ask the Holy Spirit to identify how your "thought-life" might be impacting your witness for Jesus?