

Job 42: 1 – 6; 1 Peter 1: 3 – 12

‘Blessed are those who have not seen’

Introduction ...

St Thomas’ Day ... and yet neither of our Bible readings mentioned him.

Perhaps the reading from Job is chosen for today as it tells us of Job moving to a new kind of faith in God ... just as Thomas did when he encountered the risen Christ Jesus.

But the most obvious link is in our New Testament reading – I wonder if you spotted it? When the risen Jesus spoke to Thomas, he said:

‘Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet have believed’

And in **1 Peter 1: 8** we heard Peter affirming Christians scattered from Jerusalem into many places – affirming them by saying:

‘Although you have not seen him you love him

and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice’

Where do we fit in?

Where do we fit in to this? Clearly – we have not seen the earthly Jesus nor, in bodily form, the resurrected Christ. But I suspect that for many of us – our journey of Faith began or continued because we have seen something ... experienced something.

Thomas – as we were thinking here this morning – is a role model for this. He was told something – but being told was not enough. We will have been told about the Christian Faith ... but was that enough ... is it enough?

Were there extra elements:

Perhaps the love shown to you by those who talked about Jesus ...

Perhaps being moved to express praise when experiencing some glorious music or beautiful sunset ...

Perhaps the extraordinary gift of Jesus to us when taking the bread or wine at Communion ...

Perhaps the example of the life of a Christian ...

Thomas needed more than the words of another – though these words were important ...

He then became the Apostle to India – and his witness bore great fruit in the spread of the gospel and the founding of churches.

The way in which each of us witness is bound to be influenced by our own story – and so it will have been with Thomas.

Maybe people felt more able to raise questions with him ... maybe he was more patient with those questions.

How might God use your journey of faith to help you witness in your unique way?

PTO

Conclusion ...

And here are some words by Nick Fawcett as a conclusion:

'Don't be too hard on Thomas

or on yourself

For Jesus didn't condemn him

any more than the rest of us

He asks for faith

and he'll help it to grow

but he also understands doubt

and will help that to *go*'