REASONABLE DOUBT
JOHN 14:5-6 / 8-4-19 / PM

I. THE LIFE OF THOMAS

1. Name
   a. Thomas – Twin (Aramaic)
   b. Thomas was also called Didymus “Twin in Latin”

2. Thomas is only mentioned once in the three synoptic gospels and once in Acts – one time for when all the disciples are listed (Matthew 10:3, Mark 3:18, Luke 6:15, Acts 1:13).

3. We learn everything we know about Thomas from John's Gospel.

4. Character
   a. Thomas seems to be a pessimistic person.
   b. He was like Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh.
   c. He anticipated the worst most of the time.
   d. This is indicated in the things that he speaks in Scripture
      i. He indicated that he thought that all the disciples would be killed by following Jesus back to the area surrounding Jerusalem--John 11:16.
      ii. He indicated that he believed that they did not know the way to follow if Jesus left and would not be able to know the way John 14:5-6.
      iii. He said he would not believe that Jesus was alive unless he touched Him--John 20:25.

5. Thomas was a better man than popular lore would indicate
   a. Thomas had a deep love for Jesus – a love that probably rivaled that of John the Apostle.
   b. Thomas had a deep devotion to Jesus that showed courage in the face of pessimism.
c. Thomas had a truly deep sorrow over Jesus' death, one that showed in the actions he took after Jesus died.

6. Ministry and Death
   a. Historical records indicate that Thomas took the Gospel to India around 52 AD.
   b. This would indicate that Thomas was the only Apostle to go outside the Roman Empire.
   c. The strongest tradition holds that Thomas was martyred by being run through with a spear.

7. The title doubting Thomas might be a little harsh
   a. When the disciples were first told about the resurrection they did not believe (Luke 24:10-11)
   b. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus did not believe until it was revealed to them.
   c. The disciples did not believe until Jesus showed up and showed them His hands and feet (John 20:19-20)

II. LIFE LESSONS FROM THOMAS

1. People are complex.
   a. One minute Thomas was ready to die for Jesus.
   b. Another minute he wouldn’t believe Jesus was alive.

2. Jesus cares about sincere questioners.


4. There is no substitute for a personal encounter with Jesus.

5. Jesus is more than a good man. He is God.