

INCREASING FAITH

SCRIPTURE:

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20: 24-28)

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) Stud Finder
- (1) Hammer

MAIN MESSAGE:

We must increase in the trust and confidence we have in the Word of God.

SONG: "I Believe In The One They Call Jesus"

LESSON:

After several unsuccessful attempts to hang the picture on the wall, you realize you need to find a stud to support the weight of the picture. After reaching for a hammer, you gently tap the wall. As you hear hollow sounds, you move a little down the wall until the hollow sound is replaced by a dull thud. Now that you found the stud, you hammer you nail and hang the priceless family portrait on the wall, and it stays.

This may work for most people, but I tend to over think things, and I don't trust my ears, so I have to get a stud finder to ensure there is in fact a stud behind the wall. Even a stud finder is hard to believe; how does it know there is a stud there? There is a level of faith we have to put into the things we know concerning construction. We know there is a stud every eight inches or so. We know that the hollow sound indicates an empty space, yet manufacturers are still able to convince people like me that they need a device to tell them whether or not there is a stud behind the wall.

Many in the world find it difficult to believe there is a God, and His Son died for our sin. They do not believe in the Word of God and the life changing power of obedience to that word. Thomas the Apostle had spent three years with Jesus; he listened to the preaching and witnessed the miracles. When told by the other Apostles that Jesus had risen, he did not believe. He said, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." After he saw Jesus with his own eyes and touched him Jesus said "blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

Jesus was talking about us! We have the evidence through His Word and "His invisible attributes . . . have been clearly seen" (Rom 1:20). There is no reason to tear the dry wall down to see the stud behind. We have no excuse to disbelieve in the Lord; trust in His Word.

PRAYER: Strengthen our faith in Your Word, and thank You for the hope we have in You.