

Thomas Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

Do you know any “Doubting Thomases”?

Can they be annoying?

What do they add to any discussion?

Look at the incident that convinced Nathanael. John 1:45—49. What was Jesus doing in that encounter?

How can we guard ourselves against “wishful thinking”?

What does it do to our witness if we don’t — if we are gullible about a questionable claim?

How did Jesus give individualized treatment to Thomas in John 20:26—28?

Thomas believed because he truly encountered Jesus. How are we able to do that in the present era?

What are some of the ways Jesus has shown Himself to be real to you?

Compare Jesus’ approach to Thomas with his approach to Peter in John 21:15—17.

Scripture does not record the ministry of Thomas but credible history records him as the apostle to India, the church of India claims him and his grave is in India.

Consider the ancient philosophy of Hinduism — re-labeled in the west as New Age — and its effects.

How does belief in reincarnation affect the ability to understand and respond to the gospel?

What does the concept of karma do to a person’s attitude towards those who are suffering?

What does relativism and rejection of reason do to the ability to think about anything?

What can be said to the person who states, “There is no absolute truth”?

Does it make sense that a converted skeptic is suited to convey the gospel to people who doubt the reality of the external world and the reliability of the mind to apprehend it?

*What does the scripture teach about the relationship of reason and faith? 1Pe 3:15 “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”
Why “with gentleness and respect?”*

What about the people who do not ask? What should we say to them?

Is there a way to get people to see the logical conclusions of their worldview?

What does this teach us about evangelism?

When are spiritual seeds likely to sprout in a person's heart?

How has evangelism changed between the days of the Billy Graham Crusades and today?

How should we approach skepticism in our friends and relatives?