

The God Who Shows

Text: 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.*" (John 20:27)

Question 66: What are sacraments?

Answer: Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals. They were instituted by God so that by our use of them, He might make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel and seal that promise. And this is God's gospel promise: He grants us forgiveness of sins and eternal life by grace because of Christ's one sacrifice accomplished on the cross.

Intro: Faith born; faith growing; faith confirmed

I. Who was Thomas?

- Thomas therefore, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16)
- Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" (John 14:5)

In both situations, see the _____.

II. Thomas' Doubt

v24

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What fueled his unbelief

What was at stake?

III. Thomas' Love

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When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night, Thy hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. (Psalm 32:3-4)

IV. Jesus' Love

Application 1: Weak Faith

Who is among you that fears the LORD, that obeys the voice of His servant, that walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the Name of the LORD and rely on his God. (Isaiah 50:10)

Application 2: A Promising Jesus

John 20:23

Application 3: A Showing Jesus

Article 33: **The Sacraments**

We believe that our good God, mindful of our crudeness and weakness, has ordained sacraments for us to seal His promises in us, to pledge His good will and grace toward us, and also to nourish and sustain our faith. He has added these to the Word of the gospel to represent better to our external senses both what He enables us to understand by His Word and what He does inwardly in our hearts, confirming in us the salvation He imparts to us. For they are visible signs and seals of something internal and invisible, by means of which God works in us through the power of the Holy Spirit. So they are not empty and hollow signs to fool and deceive us, for their truth is Jesus Christ, without whom they would be nothing.