

Second Sunday of Easter ~ 4/15

"But Thomas, who was called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe.'" (John 20:24-25)

Sometimes when I look in the mirror I am amazed that there is only one person looking back. Sometimes I feel that there are two people inside me. We both look the same to the world around us, but on the inside we are quite different. One side knows that God is good and that I am loved by this God. This side looks around at the world and sees the beauty of creation and the goodness of others. This part of me knows beyond a doubt that no matter what happens in my life God will be with me. When I look through these eyes I know that nothing is impossible.

Unfortunately there is another person inside, my twin, who is not such a positive influence. This person looks at all the pain and agony in the world and wonders, "If there is a God how could He let these atrocities take place." This part of me sees all too clearly the faults and failings of my sisters and brothers and is quick to judge. This facet of my soul rails at God for abandoning me in times of trouble. She constantly calls out for God to show Himself so that she might believe.

I suspect that we all engage in these types of interior battles. Our mirror images are tugging back and forth, each hoping to get the upper hand. At times like this perhaps Thomas is a good person to remember. Thomas the faithful apostle of Jesus was also Thomas the Doubter. In today's passage we meet the shadow side of Thomas, the one who could not believe the news of his brothers and sisters. We can all relate to him for we have all had those occasions when we have been asked to believe without seeing, and we responded with cynicism not faith. Perhaps, like Thomas, underneath the surface of the cynic, lives the servant who is just afraid to believe.

The response of Thomas in this scene from the gospel is how the majority of us would probably respond. We would scoff at the news the apostles proclaimed but not because we wouldn't want it to happen. We would scoff because it would be just too good to be true. Today have a conversation with that twin, ask her or him to look around at the world with the eyes of the believing Thomas and you might find Jesus suddenly standing in your presence.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Do I see the doubter or the believer in the mirror?*
- 2. Can I remember any experiences that moved me from doubt to belief?*

Prayer: Lord, I believe. Help me overcome the times I don't.