



*Believing
Without
Seeing*

John 20: 24-29





John 20: 24–29

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

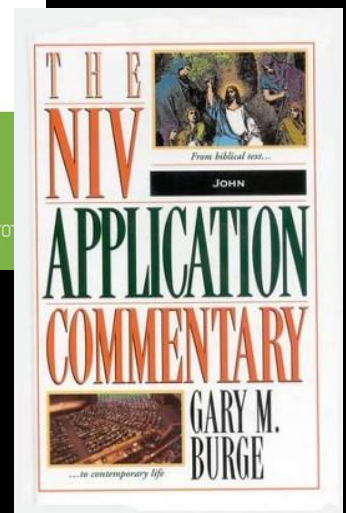
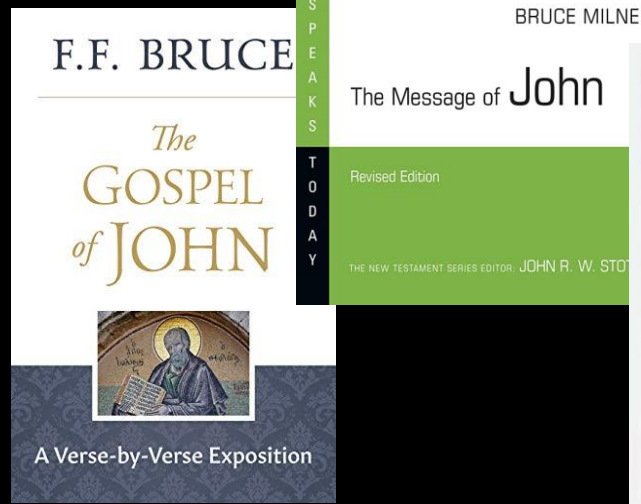
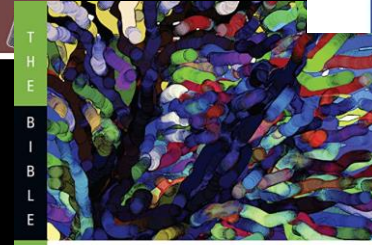
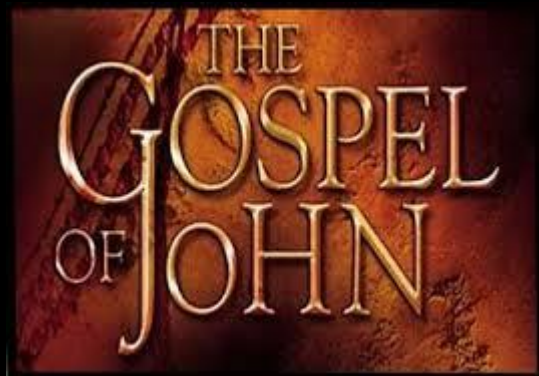
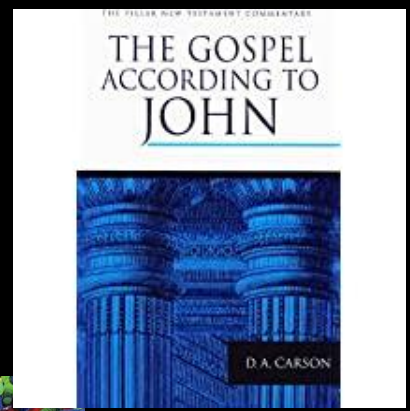
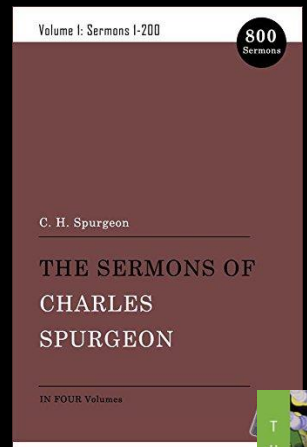
²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”



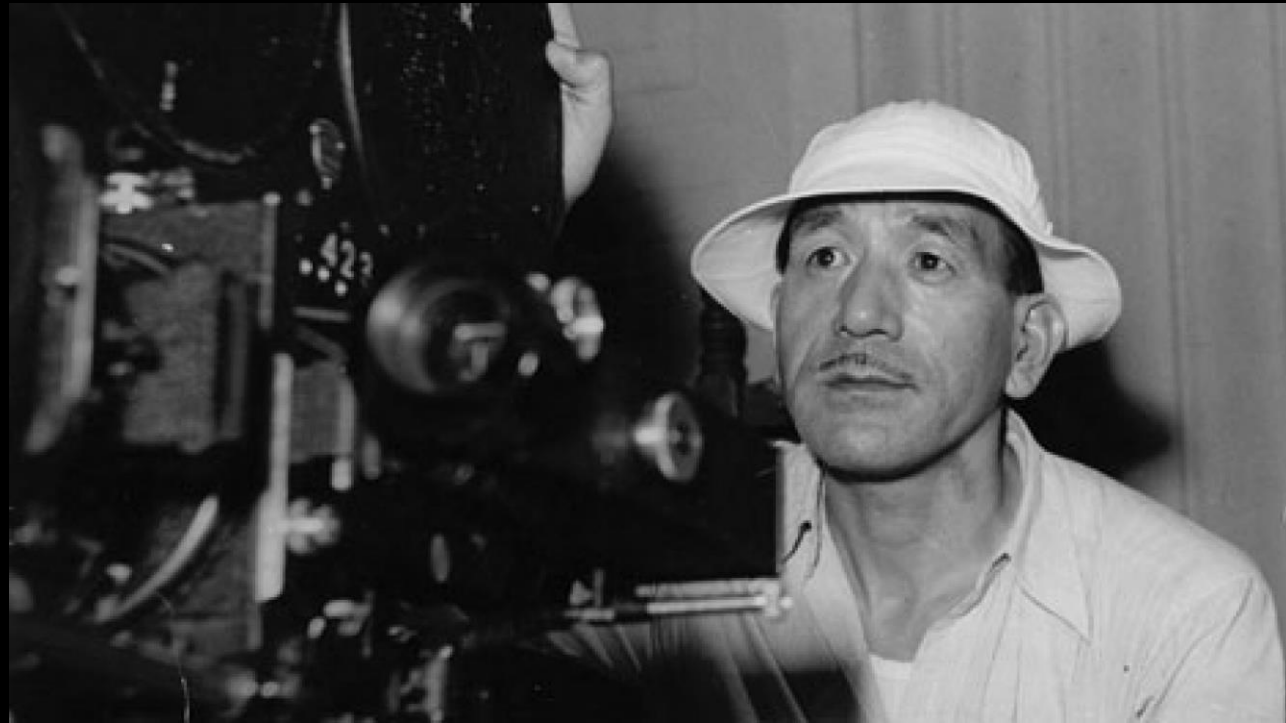


How is the Gospel of John Different?

1. Fewer stories than other gospels
2. In-depth narration of each story
3. Unique literary style
4. Unique stories not found in other gospels



Yasujiro Ozu





Tokyo Story



Tatami Shot



John 20:16

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him
and cried out in
Aramaic, "Rabboni!"





John 20: 19–20

Jesus came and stood among them...

...he showed them his hands and side.



John 11:16

“Let us also go, that we may die with him.”



“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die”



John 14:5

“Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”



“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”



John 20:28

**“My Lord and
my God!”**



“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”



My Lord and My God!

Ho Kyrios mou kai ho Theos mou
Ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου !
The Lord of Me and the God of me





**Charles Haddon
Spurgeon**

- 1 ... that he desired to make of Thomas a most convincing witness to the reality of his resurrection. Here is a man who is determined not to be deceived; let him come and use the tests of his own choice...
- 2 ... because he would have us see that he will not lose even one of those whom the Father has given him. The good Shepherd will leave the ninety and nine to seek the one wanderer. If Thomas is the most unbelieving, Thomas shall have the most care.



The perfect Jesus accepted divine homage, and therefore we are assured that it was rightly and properly given, and we do here at this moment offer him the like adoration.



**Charles Haddon
Spurgeon**

Thomas worshiped Jesus!





Gary M. Burge

It is a confession of Thomas' heartfelt belief in Jesus. Thus we learn that the most outrageous doubter of the resurrection of Jesus utters the greatest confession of the Lord who rose from the dead.

Thomas confessed to Jesus!



Thomas thereby not only displays his faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but points to its deepest meaning; it is nothing less than the revelation of who Jesus Christ is.



**Donald Arthur
Carson**

Thomas understood Jesus' true identity!



The recognition of the true **identity of Christ** brings about a **heartfelt confession** that is simultaneously an act of **pure worship**.



John 20:29

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”





Gary M. Burge

Juxtaposed in these verses are faith based on sight and faith based on the word of those who testify. Thomas's faith is not necessarily blemished because of his need for sight; it is simply privileged, for few would ever have the gift of what these disciples have experienced.



Thomas' faith is not deprecated: rather it is as if the step of faith Thomas has taken, displayed in his unrestrained confession, triggers in Jesus' mind the next step, the coming-to-faith of those who cannot see but who will believe – and so he pronounces a blessing on them.



**Donald Arthur
Carson**





**Frederick Fyvie
Bruce**

This last beatitude had a special message for the readers of this Gospel when it was first published; it has the same message for readers of the Gospel today. They have not seen, and neither have we; yet they might believe, and so may we.



Thomas and Other Eyewitnesses

Old Testament



The Rest of Us

Bible (Old & New Testaments)



John 20:31

But these are written that you may believe* that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

* pisteuete
πιστεύητε



Thomas and Other Eyewitnesses

Old Testament



Holy Spirit



The Rest of Us

Bible (Old & New Testaments)

Holy Spirit



**Acts 2:
38–39**

³⁸...Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.



Thomas and Other Eyewitnesses

Old Testament



Holy Spirit



The Rest of Us

Bible (Old & New Testaments)

Holy Spirit

Testimony
Preaching
Missionaries



**Romans
10:17**

Consequently, faith comes from hearing
the message, and the message is heard
through the word of Christ.



John 17:20

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.







Bruce Milne

Thomas therefore is not simply the representative of the doubter, but of the doubter become firm believer! The resurrection was what made the difference; it was clearly sufficiently real and verifiable to lay Thomas' doubts to rest. Indeed, apart from it, the subsequent life and career of Thomas are simply inexplicable.







“When I consider the cross of Christ, how can anything I do be called sacrifice?”

Amy Carmichael



“Only those who can see
the invisible can achieve
the impossible.”



Ida Scudder

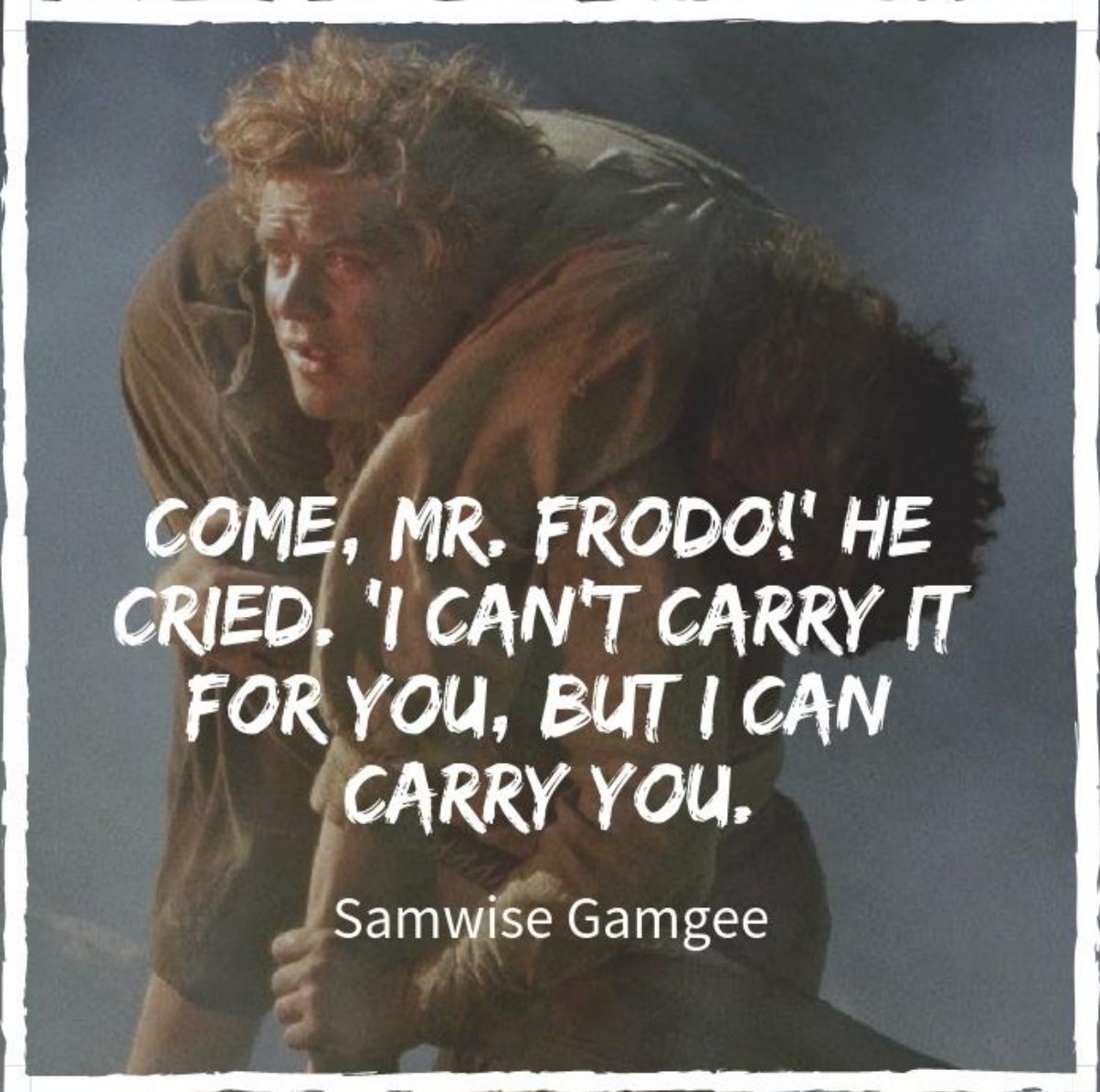




“Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.”

St. Augustine



A photograph of Samwise Gamgee carrying Frodo Baggins on his back. Sam is wearing a brown tunic and has a determined expression. Frodo is wearing a blue tunic and has a look of concern. The background is a clear blue sky. The image is framed by a white, hand-drawn border.

COME, MR. FRODO!' HE
CRIED. 'I CAN'T CARRY IT
FOR YOU, BUT I CAN
CARRY YOU.

Samwise Gamgee



“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

Mother Teresa





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John 20: 24-29