



## Take My Word for It

**T**his is easier said than done. Growing up, we insisted on doing things ourselves, learning from our own experience, developing a sense of our own ability. We soon came to know that there are times when we should—in fact, we must—take someone else's word for something. If we refused to do this, we might be called a "doubting Thomas." Is that fair to us? Is it fair to Thomas?

As today's Gospel passage reports, gathered in a room, several disciples of Jesus experienced him truly among them. Thomas was absent. When the others told him what had occurred, he refused to take their word for it. To believe, he also would have to experience Jesus. It is unfair to credit them with faith and label him a doubter. After all, their experience probably convinced them, an event Thomas did not enjoy with the other disciples.

The point of this story is not Thomas' eventual visit by Jesus or his subsequent profession of faith. Rather, it is the source of such a confession. Thomas was unwilling or unable to accept the truth of the resurrection unless he saw Jesus and touched him. Jesus told him: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed" (John 20:29). Blessed are you and me, who have come to know Jesus and the truth of his resurrection on the word of others—our parents and teachers, pastoral ministers and friends, those who have come to know him and who witness to this in their lives.

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### FOR Reflection

- ★ *If you lack faith, as seems to be the case with Thomas, pray for it.*
- ★ *What do you do to learn more about the faith?*



