

❖ OBSERVATIONS ON ST. THOMAS SUNDAY ❖

On this Sunday after Pascha, our Church observes the memory of that event involving doubting Thomas. Jesus took this occasion to teach us several profound truths that transcend the ages. Here are three observations we can glean from it:

1) First we learn that absenting ourselves from church and from the fellowship of Christians can lead to trouble. Thomas missed out on the joy of the first Pascha because he was absent from the gathering of those who loved the Lord. His absence led to further difficulties. All this could have been avoided if he had come to church that day.

2) Secondly, we learn something about "doubt." It is not a sin to have an honest doubt about a tenet in our Faith. But this does impose an obligation on our part to find out and resolve the doubt. That is what Thomas did. He doubted the Resurrection of our Lord. So he came to the place where the apostles gathered to find out for himself. He received a gracious reception from Christ. The Lord knew of the aching in his heart and replaced it with an ardent belief in Christ.

This has been the experience of many who have sought for the answers to their doubts. Thomas is merely the first in a long line of people who have searched for the answers to life's greatest questions, and have found them at the foot of Christ.

3) Thirdly, we realize that ours is a living faith. Surely the person who has such a belief in Christ as God is blessed. He does not limit his belief to the testimony of his senses -- for he has not seen the resurrected Lord. Yet, he holds in his heart the truth of God's Word.

Jesus talks to a Samaritan woman.

John 4:1-42



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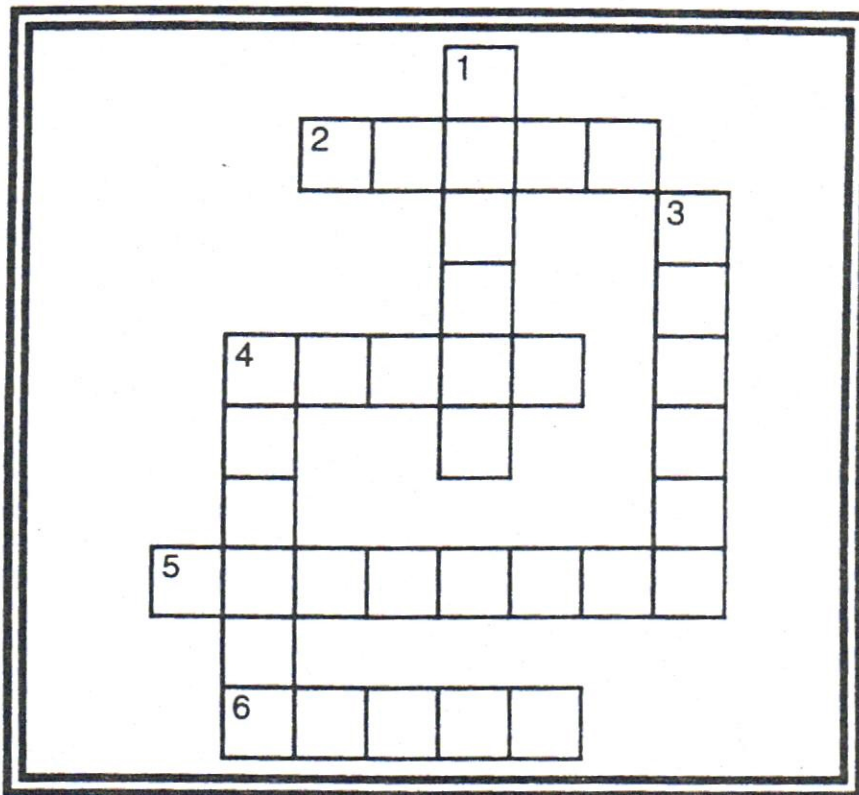
Jesus and His friends walked to the country of Samaria. It was a long walk. Jesus was tired, so He sat down by a well to rest. Jesus' friends went into town to find some food to eat.

While Jesus' friends were gone, a woman came to the well to get some water. It was very hot outside. The sun was very bright. The woman brought a big jar to fill with water. It must have been hard work to carry the heavy jar.

"May I have a drink?" Jesus asked. The woman was surprised! Men never talked to women in public places back then. Jesus told the woman some secrets she had. Jesus showed her that He cared about her. Jesus told her He was the Messiah—the Savior God promised to send. The woman went back to the town to tell others about Jesus. She brought many people back to see Jesus so they could hear Him, too.

THE LOST BROTHER

Genesis 43:1 - 44:2

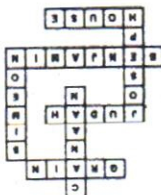


ACROSS

- 2 Joseph told his steward to fill the men's sacks with ____
 4 Jacob's son
 5 Judah's brother
 6 Joseph's brothers were afraid when they were taken into his ____

DOWN

- 1 There were 11 men from ____
 3 Joseph brought ____ out of prison
 4 Joseph wanted his brothers to sell ____ to the Israelites



THE SAMARITAN WOMAN.

