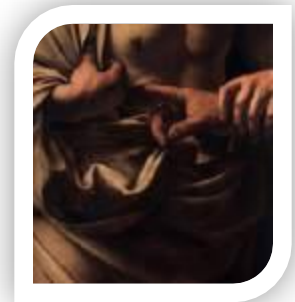


Peter and Thomas: Denials-One,Two,Three Times

Scripture clearly points out that Jesus foretold to Peter that he would deny him three times although Peter was incredulous at the time.¹ However, it is never noted that there was a similar episode of three denials, with Thomas, but after the resurrection.

According to Mark, *Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene who went and told this to the grieving disciples but they refused to believe her.*² In the second case *Jesus revealed himself to two disciples who were just walking along and they retraced their steps and announced the good news to the others but they rejected this announcement as they did Mary Magdalene's.*³ He then appeared to the disciples when Thomas was absent but when they told him, *"We have seen the Lord!"*, Thomas again responded that he would never believe without seeing and this was his third denial.⁴ Only when Jesus appeared to the Eleven did Thomas believe and that was after probing Jesus' hands and side.⁵



While we usually point to Thomas' failure in this accounting, note that *Jesus took the Eleven to task for their disbelief and stubbornness, since they had put no faith in those who had seen him after he was raised.*⁶

Blest are those who have not seen and believed.

¹ Luke 22:54-62

² Mark 16:9-11

³ Mark 16:12-13

⁴ John 20:24-25

⁵ John 20:26-29

⁶ Mark 16:14

⁷ John 20:29