

Jesus and Thomas

John 20 24-29 ²⁴One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!" ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

Proverbs 3v3-6

³Never let go of loyalty and faithfulness. Tie them around your neck; write them on your heart. ⁴If you do this, both God and people will be pleased with you. ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. ⁶Remember the LORD in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.

Sermon Jesus said 'Happy are those who believe without seeing'

A Ghost Story

Not long out of University, I shared a flat above a newsagents with 3 other lads which is a 100m from a war memorial. One night, the youngest lad Rico, came rushing in, scrambling up the stairs breathless and looking as white as a sheet. He was garbling his words, and we were already a little amused. We calmed him down enough to speak properly and he told us that he was walking towards the road home then saw in the semi dark a man stood by the war memorial dressed in black, wearing what looked to him like a Victorian miners outfit. Being an affable chat, he walked towards him to engage him in conversation but as he did, the miner looked at him, then vanished into thin air! He then ran home in a panic. Being understanding and caring mates we were rolling around on the floor laughing, before we asked him the question. How much did you have to drink?

Why didn't we believe him. We lived with him and were close friends. He was not in the habit of telling lies. He had no reason to make up a story, especially one that would make him look silly. By his very behaviour and shock on his face, he had encountered something which had scared him, and there have been lots of stories in our village of ghosts. All good evidence to suggest he might be telling the truth.

Yet our reaction towards Rico was one of merriment and unbelief. Why was this? Why did we behave that way? I think it is because his testimony of what happened was both paranormal (or supernatural), and it was something that we ourselves had not previously experienced before. So regardless of any evidence, it was something that we were always going to find hard to believe. So what would have made us believe the story of the Victorian miner ghost? If we had been there with him, and seen it. We would have probably then believed our own eyes.

There are certainly some things as Christians that we have difficulty in believing without seeing, even though our whole faith is based on a limitless supernatural God. It seems to me that if something is both supernatural, and outside of our current experience, then we can have difficulty in believing it. If its something we've not experienced but it meets the laws of Physics then we might believe it. If its supernatural but we have seen similar before then we will probably believe that it can happen again. But combine the two, then it's much harder to believe. It can feel like there is a ceiling on our faith that we can't push beyond. It is too hard for us to believe that, even though we may really trust the person telling us. For example we might be told of a person raising some-one else to life. A Christian friend may say tell us of something really special that God wants to do through us, but we know it's beyond our normal capability, and cannot believe that God could supernaturally do that through us. Last weekend on TV, there was a

documentary on one of the Lordes miracle, and one lady was studying the evidence. She said she was a Doctor and also a Christian, although she could not explain the healing, she did not believe in miracles.

If we are going to follow Jesus, and lead our Christian life to the full, then we will need to embrace the supernatural elements of our faith. But how do we increase our belief in what we can not see? I have enlisted the apostle Thomas to help us think this through.

Impetuous Thomas

As I like at the life of Thomas, I would say he comes across as Impetuous, impatient, independent and brave. Thomas Didymus, was a twin. Presumably he had an identical twin brother. We never hear of the other twin, even though sticking by your brother seems quite common. We know two sets of brothers that stick together in following Jesus, Peter and Andrew, and then the sons of Zebedee, James & John. Thomas comes across as very independent, happy to stand apart from his twin, happy to stand out from the crowd. He (like the two sets of brothers) was named by Jesus as one of his 12 apostles, his closest disciples. Quite an honour, and perhaps one up on his other twin. He was most likely in his late teens or early twenties. He comes across as dedicated but impetuous, and a straight-talking no nonsense type of person.

Days before Jesus is arrested, with hostility mounting towards them from the authorities, Jesus gets a message to travel to see a sick friend Lazarus. It could be a very dangerous journey for them, but Thomas exhorts the other disciples "Let us all go along with the Teacher, so that we may die with him!" (John 11v16). This is a rare expression of commitment. The Jews might say they were prepared to die for God and the Law, but rarely for a Rabbi.

At the last Supper, Jesus could see how upset the disciples were so painted a picture of his Father's house in heaven, with rooms in that he would prepare just for them, and that they would know how to get there. This pictorial speech was a bit too much for Thomas, who complained he neither knew where Jesus was going let alone the way to get there. He wasn't going to spend time thinking this through, he wanted it made plain and simple. Jesus responded with 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me.'

Jesus is making it clear to Thomas that he needs to follow Jesus and his teaching, even when he's gone, and if he does that he will arrive at his Fathers house in heaven. I **am** the Way says Jesus. The early Church were know first as 'Followers of the Way' before they were called Christians.

Thomas is not the reflective type. He wants things spelt out clearly, and then wants to get on with it. He wants it laid out in clear sight for him, and then he believes what he sees.

How many of us are a bit like that. I don't want to dig deep in the Bible or take time finding out, or wait on God for answers, just give me the quick simplified version, then If it fits with my current experience, I will believe it and get on with it? Can you see how easy it is to think like that in this frantic world, but how by doing so we can sell our Christian experience short of what God wants for us. Can you see that?

Doubting Thomas

Thomas, was very close to the other Apostles, he had lived with them for 3 years, 24/7, they had travelled together all over Judea. They had been through good times and bad times. Recently, it was bad. Their Rabbi, Jesus, the one they saw as Lord, and the future Messiah King had been crucified by the Romans. They knew the authorities would be after them too, and they were all in hiding. That is they all were, bar one. "Where's Thomas? "Oh he said something about being stir crazy, and wasn't going to hide al day"! When he was gone Jesus turned up and showed himself to the other disciples.

When Thomas got back to the room, I imagine that there was pandemonium in the room. Perhaps the woman were there too, and the men Jesus had appeared to on the road to Emmaus.

“Thomas, we saw him at the tomb, I thought it was the Gardner”; “Yes, and he appeared to us on the road, then broke bread with us and vanished”, and then the disciples jump “We have seen the Lord too, he appeared in this very room. He has risen”, “So where he is then?”. “He vanished”!

Thomas was having none of it. “Right – all of you stop it right there. I don’t believe any of you”. “Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” says Thomas. (John 20:25). He is adamant, and nothing anyone else says can persuade him otherwise. As far as he is concerned they must be deluded in their combined grief, and seeing things.

Thomas trusted his fellow apostles, He knew them all well and knew they didn’t tell lies, but when they told him that they had seen their Lord Jesus alive, he was having none of it, not from the women, the travellers or the other disciples. Over the last 3 years he had seen Jesus do countless miraculous healings, calm the storm, walk on water,, multiply a boys lunch bag into a feast of fish and bread for thousands, and even raise people from the dead, a widows Son, Jairus’ daughter and his friend Lazarus who had been in the grave for days. It was all supernatural stuff, but supernatural stuff that he had witnessed. It was part of his experience. For his Rabbi, who had clearly been crucified and died, to raise himself back to life after 3 days, was both supernatural and outside of what he had previously witnessed! Seeing was believing, and he would not believe Jesus had been resurrected, unless he saw it for himself. .

A week passed before the disciples saw Jesus again. It must have been a long week, and an awkward one with Thomas. With no fresh sightings of Jesus, he must have grown more confident in his unbelief, and it must have been a time of growing frustration for the other disciples.

The Encounter

Then after a week Jesus appears in the room with a ‘Peace be with you’ to all there. Then he looks at Thomas, and puts out his hands. 2Go on then Thomas, put your fingers in these hands, and into my side, stop doubting and believe’. (John 20:26-29).

Thomas’ head must have been full of a cocktail of emotions. Relief he was wrong, sorrow that he had been stubborn, embarrassed that Jesus knew the words he said, and overawed by the presence of Jesus. I imagining him sinking to his knees, with tears streaming down his face as he says ‘My Lord, My God’.

Jesus smiles, and says to Thomas “Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me! And that’s the key text for us today – ‘happy are those who believe without seeing’.

Why did Jesus do that to Thomas? Was he just out to embarrass him in front of the other disciples. Did he do it, so that for many centuries, people would remember him in a derogatory way as ‘Doubting Thomas’ No Jesus loved Thomas, and had a plan for his life of good works for him to do it. But he would not be able to step into this destiny unless he could start to believe in an unseen Jesus.

It is the same for us, Jesus loves us, and had good works planned for us to do, but we can not properly fulfil our destinies unless we can believe in and follow the unseen Jesus.

I believe – help my unbelief.

Jesus finishes this moving scene with the words ‘Happy are those who believe without seeing me’. After all Thomas had been through he still had to ‘see’ in order to ‘believe’.

It is tougher for us, because we have not lived with Jesus for three years in the flesh, and we can’t see him with our normal eyes. We can only see him and believe in him by faith. We have to trust in the unseen. Jesus says that should make us happy!

Jesus once got exasperated with his disciples because a man brought his son to the disciples to heal. The boy kept having fits and foaming at the mouth, but the disciples couldn't heal him. So the Father took him to Jesus who asked "How long has he been like this?". "From childhood," the man answered. ²²"It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief! (Mark 9 v21-24)

That is one of favourite prayers is 'I believe, help my unbelief' (Mk 9v23).

Going back to the young men that I did youthwork with in the flat near the War Memorial. We had a very large group of teenagers, and one of these young men, Paul, led the youth groups worship band, called Eden Burning, which became the UK's leading Christian rock band for several years in the 80s. When they launched their debut album, the popular first track was entitled 'Help my unbelief. In concerts, the noisy mosh pit, would sing along, but purposefully misquote the lyrics. Instead of help my unbelief, they would sing 'Help my Uncle Keith'.... which is also a valid prayer, as we all struggle with how much we believe, your uncle Keith, aunty Susan and me too ! I believe, help my unbelief. I sometimes feel that as much as I love Jesus, and believe in him want It is like there is a ceiling on my faith. I know that God is all powerful, but there are somethings I can believe for in my life, and some things I have not yet got the faith for. Lord I have this much faith, please help me believe for more.

Fleas in a jam jar

If you pour hundreds of tiny fleas into an open 4 inch jam jar they will jump up and down at a height many inches above the jar, and some will escape. However if you put the lid on the jar, trapping them inside and leave it for 3 days, they will adjust their jumping to the height of the lid. Then when you take the lid off they will never jump higher than the 4" jar. Even their off-spring will jump no higher. Physically they are able to do it, but they no longer believe they can so they don't. They think there is a ceiling there, which isn't. They are stuck in the jar by their own belief.

Am I stuck in a jar? Have I limited God to what he can do in my life? How do I increase my level of believe, my level of faith? You believe what you believe, it's not that easy to say – well just belief more.

A relationship

Jesus is the Way, and I am a follower of Jesus, so I need to follow his Way. To do that I need to be in a relationship with Jesus, as real as the one that Thomas had in their physical forms. So do you. One in which we react with him every day, through rough or smooth. A daily walk with Jesus, following where he leads me, learning from him and serving him; continually doing the things that he wants me to do. That is what being a disciple of Jesus, or a Christian follower is. But we can't have that relationship in the 'natural' because Jesus is not in bodily form anymore. So the only way we can have that relationship is in the supernatural. So we have to get comfortable with supernatural things.

However, we have not got to do anything supernatural ourselves. We can't. Only God can. He can do it, because he is supernatural. He can do these supernatural things through us. - He puts the super into our natural. Developing a daily relationship with an unseen Jesus, will help us to understand more of what he wants to do in our lives and what he is capable of doing through us.

Listening

We can have a relationship with anyone unless we can communicate with them.

Jesus said "**My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me**" (John 10 v27).

We start our supernatural journey by believing what it says in the Bible. If we follow Jesus (i.e. one of his sheep to use his farming metaphor) then we will listen to his voice, and we will hear his voice. If we don't hear his voice then there is no point in listening, and then how can we follow him?. It sounds obvious, but a lot of Christians say that they don't hear Gods voice. If you **think** you won't be able to hear God, then it is most likely that you won't. But if you take his words as truth, and believe them, then you are on the road to hearing Gods voice.

You can not fellowship with God, if you can't hear him speak to you or don't believe that he will speak to you. Hearing his voice is the foundation stone of knowing him personally. Every day we should be trying to get into his presence and listen to him for direction. Trouble is, many of us Christians insist in being the Lord over our own lives, so aren't worried about what God wants us to do, and don't therefore listen to him. Making all our own decisions, stops us getting close to Him.

We cannot see God the Father, Jesus the Son, or the Holy Spirit. However you must believe that they want a friendship with us, because the bible says so. You are so loved by God, that its too hard at times to fathom. The more time you spend seeking him, perhaps in prayer, with your bible, in quiet times, or just being still some-where and being open to him, then the more likely you are to be assured of his love, and to hear what he is saying. God isn't keeping quiet. He's always talking to us, we're just not listening.

How does God speak?

We are not listening for a normal spoken voice from God. This occasionally happens to some people but it seems to me to be rare. However there are many ways God can and does speak to us, such as in dreams when we are asleep, or visions when we are awake, again both rare in my case.

More common for me is through the words that jump out at me in the bible, or through Christian books I read, and through words that other Christians speak into my life. Also he arranges circumstances to makes happen for me, and produce signs, that confirm to me a direction that he wants me to take.

Then most commonly for me and I guess for most people, are the thoughts that jump into your mind, that you have not placed there and fit with what God might say. Sometimes you try to ignore these thoughts, and they just get stronger and stronger until you have to do something. If they are thoughts that are at odds with what's in the Bible and what you know about the nature of God, then ignore them, as they won't be His voice. But when we are fairly sure that these thoughts are from Him, we need to act on them, even if they don't make sense to us. It is about being obedient to those promptings. You may not always get it right, you may not hear clearly and you may make some wrong decisions of the back of that. That's Okay, don't worry, your genuine mistakes will not be held against you, but your willingness to try and follow his instructions will in itself please God and he will bless you.

Ear Wax

My ears get easily blocked. They start filling with wax but even if a tiny bit of my eardrum is visible I can still hear fine. Then one day, say if I go swimming, I get out the pool, and my hearing is completely gone in that ear. No matter how much I want to listen, or how hard I try and listen, nothing much is coming through. Every year I therefore have to have my ears syringed. It is always a strange and slightly painful experience. I always had it done with a water syringe, but the last two times, I have had the wax sucked out with a little vaccum! It is meant to be safer on the ear-drum but is no more pleasant than before. But when it is done, the pain is gone and wow what a relief to be able to hear again.

Our spiritual ears can also get blocked. This can happen if we knowingly do things that are wrong, refuse to forgive people, or in some other way live in disobedience to God. The sin has the effect of blocking our spiritual ears. No matter how much I want to listen, or how hard I try and listen, nothing much is coming through. If that's the case then I need my spiritual ears syringing. To do this, I have to give up the wrong things I am doing and ask for forgiveness. I have to act in ways that puts Gods purposes first in my life, and not my own selfish ambitions. This process can be a bit of a strange and slightly painful process, as we

realign our lives to his purposes, but when it is done and the sin is gone, what a relief it is to be able to hear God again.

Talking and trusting

But God doesn't just want us to listen to him, and do whatever he tells us. He wants to hear regularly from us, he wants to hear of our concerns, and our grievances, our petitions, our desires, our questions, and our thankfulness. We are encouraged to bring our request to God with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:4-8). Why with thanks, because you need to believe that he will meet your needs and you can give thanks for it, before you see it happen.

There is a great proverb (Proverbs 3:5-6) that says ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. ⁶Remember the LORD in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.

We can bring our prayer requests to Jesus with thankfulness, trusting in him that he hears us, and he has our best interests a heart, and answer our prayers in a way which will be best for us and his kingdom on earth. If we have prayers on our hearts, that are in keeping with what we know of God, then we can pray them out with thankfulness believing for the things that can't be seen. Happy are those who believe without seeing.

Serving

As we build up that relationship with God, listening out for his voice, trusting in him, and bringing our prayers to him with thankfulness, then we will start to believe more in what is unseen.

If we do the work that he asks us to do, we know it will be his power and strength that works through us to get the job done. These are the only things that will have eternal value, not the things that we ourselves choose to do, and carry out in our own strength. God just requires you to allow him to work through you, and you will be really blessed and privileged when you see what God does through you, and you will receive additional rewards in heaven.

I know of no other job where some-one else does the work, and the more you let them do, the more you get paid. But that's what God does for his children, us. He works to a different set of principles to the world.

There is lot's that we can do to serve God, which is essentially loving those people that he puts in front of you each day. You may have encouraging words, do acts of kindness, be generous to the needy etc, but we limit ourselves if we are not also seeking God for the supernatural. Who wouldn't want their Mother miraculously cured of cancer, or have their sons brain tumour disappear, or get up from a wheelchair, or have their sight restored. We can easily think that this kind of prayer is for other people not me, because it is quite risky if you say pray for some-one to get healed and they are not. We therefore often avoid asking for the miraculous, because we do not have the faith to see the answers.

The trouble is we can easily fall back into 'Seeing is believing', and whilst I believe in God and the supernatural, I have not seen this sort of miracle happen before, so I don't believe it can happen.

I have never seen a blind person have their sight restored through prayer, and I have been to a number of meetings where there have been lots of miraculous healings. Whenever I see a blind person at such a meeting, I will stand near them. Why, because I want to be the first to witness it. There is some Thomas in me. I know that I will believe more in that type of miracle if I can personally see it happen. It's not happened yet.

I once read of the Mozambique missionary Heidi Baker hearing God say to her that she should pray for blind people to have their sight restored. She decided to be obedient to what she had heard and prayed for every blind person she saw, sometimes stopping her car, and going over to a blind stranger she had seen and asking if she could pray for healing. She did this lots and no-one had their sight restored. How on earth must she have felt. Why carry on? But she did, and then one evening she was introduced to an old blind lady also called Heidi. She prayed for her and new pupils appeared in her eyes and she could see. The

same thing happened on the following two evenings and then after that every blind person that she prayed for was healed. I love that story. I believe that story. I don't think Heidi would make this up in her book. But, I still want to see it for myself. I want to be more comfortable and more faithful about praying for the supernatural in the lives of myself and those I love and meet. I Believe, Help me in my unbelief.

Through the relationship that you develop with God, if you feel that he is telling you to do, then you should try and do it, whether you are ultimately successful or not. After decades of volunteer Christian work, I came to the conclusion that it is much more about how obedient I am than how successful I am. You see what we can offer to God, is our love, our trust, and our obedience. The success and blessings all come from him. They are his responsibility.

But can Thomas move on from this resurrection encounter with Jesus, and have the same level of relationship with Jesus, when he has gone back to the Father.

Jesus leaves Thomas

Jesus says to Thomas "Happy are those who believe without seeing me". These words are not just about others including ourselves. They must become relevant to Thomas too. There is one more account of Thomas, who is with the disciples when Jesus appears to them when they have gone fishing with Peter, and they witness another miraculous catch of fish. There is something prophetic about this, because soon Jesus has ascended, and their job is to go throughout the world and fish for men, taking the Gospel message far and wide.

How can they do this without Jesus? Because he promised to send another who would always be with them and provide the power they need to do the things Jesus had been doing and more. The Holy Spirit. Jesus could only physically be with one person or one group of people at any one time. However, there are three persons in God's Trinity, the Father Creator God, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. By Jesus the Son ascending to be back with his Father he is then able to send the Holy Spirit, the encourager, to be with each one of us, all of the time.

Thomas is undoubtedly with the disciples when they Jesus ascend to heaven, and later in the Upper Room when the power of the Holy Spirit first descends on them, as recorded in the second book of Acts., and fills them with his power.

Now is the time, for Thomas to step out, and believe in what he cannot see, to listen to the voice of God, and to follow him, and be fruitful for Him. Can he trust the work of Jesus to be accomplished through him by the Power of the Holy Spirit, when they are not physically visible. Can Thomas be happy, and believe in the unseen?

What happened to Thomas.

Whilst the Bible falls silent on Thomas after the resurrection appearances there are plenty of other historical sources where we can piece together what happened to him, perhaps more historical evidence than for most of the apostles.

After Jesus left, the disciples, the Church soon faced persecution and were dispersed in different directions to take the Gospel message to the known world. Thomas was sent out to leave the Roman Empire on the West Side, and evangelise the Parthians, Medes and Persians (what is now modern day Iran). He seemed quite happy to do this, perhaps there were some strong Jewish communities there. However whilst he was there, Jesus appears to him in a night vision and says 'Don't be afraid Thomas. Go away to India and spread the Gospel, and my grace will be with you'. Jesus was promising Thomas success in India, if he went, but he couldn't see this in his mind's eye, and he was very reluctant to go. How could he Thomas spread the Good News in such a distant and different land as India. He was unable to believe for that. His old habits coming back!

So God intervened in his circumstances' and he ended up being made a slave to an Indian Merchant called Abannes, and going with him to the North East of India where he worked for the King there as a carpenter and builder. During that time he saw many conversions including the King and the Kings brother. However when invasion of that area threatened, he travelled by boat down to the Malabar Coast now Kerala in Southern India with Abannes, seeking out Jewish colonies and planting churches. He appointed leaders and elders as was the early Church tradition and they spoke Syriac a form of Jewish Aramaic. He mixed with all the castes, the different classes of people, and it is estimated he had about 17000 converts. Wow, what an incredible work. Gods grace was truly with Thomas as promised. When Thomas was obedient to this call, the the Holy Spirit could work through him and achieve a mighty work.

Imagine yourself having 17000 converts. It would get very busy here! He finally believed in what he could not see, and no doubt was very happy with the result. There are still churches in Kerala today that have Syriac liturgy and called themselves Christians of St.Thomas. There are now 20 million Christians in India.

Well done Thomas. Happy are those who believe without seeing. He got there in the end.

Queens Message

Go forward 1900 years to December 1939. The 13 year old Princess Elizabeth of England, handed a poem to her Father King George VI. The country was facing its second war in 25 years, with 9 million British & commonwealth soldiers dying in the first. What would he say to the nation at Christmas. He quoted the poem (from Minnie Louise Haskins).

I said to the Man who stood at the gate of the Year.
"Give me a light that I might tread safely into the unknown"
And he replied "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.

Summary

Happy are those who believe without seeing.
We do not need to be able to see God to follow him.
We can place our hand in his, by listening for his voice, my being obedient to what he says, and by trusting in him with all our hearts.

Join with me in a prayer to finish.
Lord, I believe in you, help me in my unbelief. Help me hear your voice and respond to it. Help me trust in what you say, serve you with all my heart, and let you put the super into my natural.

Amen

Supporting Scriptures

John 10 v27-30

²⁷ **My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.** ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never die. No one can snatch them away from me. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater^[b] than everything, and no one can snatch them away from the Father's care. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

Other Thomas verses

John 11v16: (Before Jesus went to Lazarus) ¹⁶ Thomas (called the Twin) said to his fellow disciples, "Let us all go along with the Teacher, so that we may die with him!"

John 14 v1-6 "Do not be worried and upset," Jesus told them. "Believe^[a] in God and believe also in me. ² There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so.^[b] ³ And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am. ⁴ You know the way that leads to the place where I am going."⁵ **Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way to get there?"** ⁶ Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me. ⁷ Now that you have known me," he said to them, "you will know^[c] my Father also, and from now on you do know him and you have seen him.
