



"Believe."

Appearing to Thomas - John 20:24-31

Delbert and Lello were enjoying the beautiful day. The sun was shining and they were walking around the farm singing songs. Suddenly, they both stopped and listened. They could hear loud banging in the distance.

"What was that, Delbert?" Lello asked.

Delbert listened carefully then smiled. "Sounds like Pops is working on a project," he replied. "Let's go find him."

The two ran off toward the barn. When they arrived, everything was silent. They could see Pops' tools next to some lumber and there were paint cans in a circle around a round piece of wood. A sign was taped to the cans.

"What's all this?" Delbert asked out loud. He walked over to the sign and slowly read, "Caution. Wet Paint." Delbert snorted, "This paint doesn't look wet." Delbert started to reach toward the wood.

"Baa! Delbert! You can't touch that. The sign says it's wet," Lello called out as she ran over to him.

"But Lello, it looks dry. I'm just going to touch it and see," Delbert explained.

Lello shook her head. "Delbert, can't you just believe the sign?"

Delbert sighed, frustrated. "Lello, just let me touch it and see." Before Delbert could reach over the paint cans, Pops walked out of the barn carrying some paintbrushes. As soon as he saw the two animals, he smiled.

"Hello there. What's going on out here?" Pops asked.

"Lello believes the sign that says the wood is wet with paint, but I think I should touch it to see," Delbert explained.

Pops nodded. "I see. That reminds me of a Bible story. May I tell it to you?"

Both animals nodded excitedly. They loved to hear Pops tell Bible stories. "This story took place after Jesus had died and risen again," he began.

Thomas was Jesus' friend. Others told Thomas they had seen the Lord but Thomas did not believe them. He said, 'Unless I see the nail marks on His hands and put my hand on his side, I will not believe.' A week later, Jesus appeared to Thomas and his friends. He said to Thomas, 'See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it to my side. Stop doubting and believe!' Thomas said to Jesus, 'My Lord and my God.'"

"Why didn't Thomas believe those who said they'd seen Jesus?" Delbert asked.

"Just like you want to touch the paint to see if it's wet, Thomas wanted to touch Jesus to believe He was alive again," Pops replied. "Jesus helped Thomas believe by letting Thomas see and touch Him."

Delbert and Lello thought about the Bible story for a minute. Delbert looked at Pops and asked, "Does Jesus help us believe, too?"

Pops gave them both a huge smile. "He sure does. Now how would you two like to help me with my project?"

Lello jumped into the air. "We'd love too! What are you making?" she asked.

"A picnic table. I thought Granny B would like to have a picnic table down by the stream," Pops replied with a grin.

"Haw! That's a great idea, Pops! Show us what to do," Delbert exclaimed.

So Pops, Delbert, and Lello spent the rest of the afternoon building and painting a picnic table for Granny B. By the time they heard Granny B calling Pops in for dinner, the table was finished. Delbert and Lello followed Pops back to the farmhouse to share their surprise with Granny B.