

“Dealing with Doubt”

Sermon Text: John 20:24-28

May 22, 2022



Notes:

Everyone has doubts. Just as we struggle with our own doubts, we are called to engage others as they struggle through theirs. It is part of our Christian witness and testimony not to disregard or disparage the doubts of others, but rather to share faithful and thoughtful responses to their doubts. This, after all, is what Jesus did.

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” 28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”
– John 20:24-28

Be merciful to those who doubt.
– Jude 1:22

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.”
– Matthew 5:11

... **“Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’”**
– Genesis 3:1

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
– John 20:29

(continues on back)

My Next Step(s):

- Like Jesus, I will care about doubters, rather than dismiss them.
- I will challenge doubts by asking what alternate “faith” those doubts believe in.
- I will trust in God more than I trust my doubts.
- I will give over my doubt to the Lord, who died for me—even with my doubts.

Memory Verse: Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” – John 20:29, NIV

(This message uses materials provided The Preaching Project, San Antonio, TX.)



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²⁴ Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

JOHN 20:24-27

²⁶ A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe.”

JOHN 20:24-27

#1

Jesus cares about doubters.

“Peace be with you!”

JOHN 20:26

“a leap of faith!”

Be merciful to those who doubt.

JUDE 1:22

#2

Jesus challenges doubters.

He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe.”

JOHN 20:27

Why would anyone make
up the Christian faith?

“Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.”

- Karl Marx

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.”

MATTHEW 5:11

“If anyone wants to follow after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.”

MATTHEW 16:24

Why would anyone make
up the Christian faith?

What would happen if you believed
what the disciples believed?

You only doubt one thing
because you believe in something else.

“Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

JOHN 20:25

²⁷ “Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe.”

JOHN 20:27

²⁸ Thomas said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

JOHN 20:28

Faith always has an object.

Faith is only as good as the thing it
believes in.

What would happen if you believed
what the disciples believed?

#3

Jesus died for doubters.

“Sell your possessions and give to the poor.”

LUKE 12:33

“A man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

MATTHEW 19:5

“Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden’?”

GENESIS 3:1

The **cross** is there to deal with your doubt.

