



“I Have My Doubts”

Pastor Doug Heisel

John 20:24-29 – One of the disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

“My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed. Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who haven’t seen me and believe anyway.”

Overcoming your doubts and questions about God

1. **RELAX: Great men and women of God have been here before you.**
2. **DOUBT your doubts: Admit that it is impossible to see and know everything — because you are not God.**
3. **LEAN IN and SHOW UP : God will REVEAL something to every seeking heart.**

John 20:30-31 – Jesus’ disciples saw Him do many other miraculous signs besides the ones recorded in this book. **But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in Him you will have life.**

4. **EXPECT that miracles, and some MYSTERIES, will be part of your faith journey.**

John 20:29 – Jesus said, “So, you believe because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing [with their physical eyes].”

2 Timothy 1:12 – For this reason, even though I suffer as I do, I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day.

Life Group Discussion & Questions

BREAKING THE ICE: What was a struggle you remember facing, when you were in elementary school or when you were younger? Explain.

DIGGING IN: Today is about overcoming our doubts, with Jesus' help. Read John 20:24-31.

1. Thomas was struggling to believe in the resurrection of Christ, because he had not personally seen Jesus, alive in the flesh. What are some other common doubts people have? Share some examples, even from your own life.
2. Review points 1-3, from this Sunday's message. Which point is particularly helpful and freeing to you. Explain why you landed there.
3. Review point number 4 and read again, John 20:29 and what Paul said in 2 Timothy 1:12. Think about the word "mysteries." Have you faced a challenging question or circumstance that would fit that word? Explain what it was, and if (and how) you are trusting Jesus, in spite of not having all the answers.

BRINGING IT HOME: When something is not going as planned, it's easy to focus on the STRUGGLE rather than the SAVIOR. And yet, He will never leave us or forsake us. He's there as a Revealer, if we choose to put our faith in Him first. Believing doesn't come after seeing. Seeing comes after believing. Start by putting your faith in what you do know about WHO He is. He will build on that, and faith will grow and He will carry you though!



Life Groups



Prayer



Giving