

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Can you think of a time when you doubted something you were told — and what helped you believe it? It could be something lighthearted and funny, or something more important.

Digging In

Question 1: Read John 20:25. We see here that Thomas had missed Jesus' first appearance to the disciples. His response was that his faith lacked any conviction unless he "sees in his hands the mark of nails and place (his) finger into the mark of the nails, and place (his) hand into his side, I will not believe." Thomas wants EVIDENCE of the claims the other disciples were saying was true. How do you relate to Thomas' struggle of belief unless he sees it for himself? Why might you also struggle to believe without seeing for yourself?

Which of these **convincing pieces of evidence** help you the most in your times of doubt?

- Reliability of God's Word (Psalm 119:160, John 17:17, Titus 1:2)
- Empty Tomb (Matt 28:1-7, Mark 16:1-7, Luke 24:1-7, John 20:1-8, 1 Cor 15:3-4)
- Eyewitnesses (1 Cor 15:5-8, Acts 1:3, 2:32, 10:39-41)
- Changed Lives (2 Cor 5:17, Galatians 2:20, Titus 3:3-5, Matt 7:16-17)

Question 2: Read John 20:27. Jesus then appears to Thomas and confronts his disbelief. Jesus approaches Thomas with all his doubts and allows him to touch his wounds from his crucifixion. How does the way Jesus approaches Thomas teach you about the Lord's view of your own doubts? What stands out about Jesus' tone and approach? What doubts about your relationship with God do you need to have confronted today? How are you going to allow that doubt to be confronted?

Question 3: Read John 20:28-29. By the end of the story, we see Thomas' confession to who Jesus truly is! Thomas says, "My Lord and my God!" How does this confession show both a personal and theological conviction about who Jesus was? How does this confession challenge you in your doubts with God? How can honest doubt with the Lord help lead you to a deeper faith and conviction of Jesus?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?