

Hope For More

Hope For The Doubtful (Week 2)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

The resurrection is hope for the doubtful.

Key Scriptures

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 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. 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!" 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." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and My God!" John 20:24-28

"What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!" Mark 9:23-24

Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" John 4:39

We often doubt because pain has blinded us to the joy offered us.

Lessons from Thomas:

1. Honest doubt matters more than disingenuous agreement.
2. Proclaim with power what you have experienced to be true.

Start talking.

- How have you experienced the false idea that doubt and faith cannot coexist?
- Why is that such a damaging idea?

Start thinking.

- Read John 20:24-28. Why wasn't Thomas with the other disciples?
- What emotions would Thomas have been wrestling with during the week?
- How did the disciples respond to Thomas' doubt?
- What does Jesus do before he tells Thomas to believe?
- Why is the order important?
- What can be learned from how Thomas responds?

Start sharing.

- Read Mark 9:23-24. In what ways do you see yourself in this story?
- How has doubt been a wall rather than a door in your life?

Start doing.

- What is an honest doubt you can bring to Jesus?
- What have you experienced to be true that you will proclaim to others?

Closing prayer.

My Lord and My God, Jesus! You are worthy of all my praise and honor. You alone have the words of life. Thank you for loving and pursuing me in and through my doubts. I offer them to you. There is much I don't understand and much I wrestle through. Thank you for meeting me right where I am. Give me the courage to proclaim your truth and goodness.