

## Easter: The Answer to Doubt 2022-04-17

### John 20:24-29

*Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."*

*26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although 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, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."*

*Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

He is Risen....are you sure?

Every thinking person sometimes wrestles with doubt.

Atheists, agnostics, "What if really is a God?" Christian, "What if Christianity *not* true?"

- Every Christian goes thru battles with doubt: difficult theological issues, unanswered prayer, intense trials (John the Baptist), suffer/tragedy/death.
- Sincere doubter does not want to doubt, but plagued by honest questions...Thomas

Thomas failure coupled with his personality triggered his doubts. *John 11:16, Matthew 26:33-35*

- Thomas/Peter promised Jesus loyalty but deserted at His arrest/trial.
  - No failure, no matter how bad, separates us from Jesus' love.
- Thomas' failure deeply affected him, Peter bounced back quick. *John 20:24-25*
  - MAYBE isolated to sulk over horrible events.
    - Isolating, especially when depressed, can deepen doubts.

Deep disappoint/shock from tragedy/unexpected result added to Thomas' doubts.

- Emphasis on Jesus' wounds shows how deeply it affected him.
  - short step from tragedy/intense trials to doubting Jesus.

Disappointed expectations from lack of understanding Scripture led to Thomas' doubts.....expected conquering King. *John 14:3-6, 20:9*

- limited doctrine understanding, wrong perspective makes you feel God does not care/is gone.
  - Death of loved one, prayer not answered or in way thought.
- When God works in ways we do not understand, it can lead to doubt about God's love

When I not resolve doctrine questions or tragedy hits and struggle with doubt about Christianity, I fall back on historical fact of Jesus Christ's life, death, resurrection *John 6:65-69, 1 Corinthians 15:14*

- Evidence for Jesus Christ's bodily resurrection is solid.
    - empty tomb, grave clothes, over 500 post-resurrection witnesses
- Sincere doubters need evidence to remove doubts. John 20:5-8, 26-28
- Not understand difficult doctrine and some doubts won't resolve until with Jesus.
    - Adequate evidence supports reasonable faith in Jesus as risen Savior.
      - If wait until all doubts are removed, you may be using doubt as smoke screen to hide behind real issue...not want submit to Jesus Christ.

All have unanswered doubts but still put "faith" in something and live by that "faith".

- Evolution ^ unanswered ?'s, atheism few answer, man's wisdom incomplete.
  - more prone to believe/trust Satan/men's ideas than God. 1 John 5:9

Biblical faith is not blind leap in dark....foolish to believe something know nothing about

- Resurrection historically true so our faith is solid in spite of doubts not fully resolved and incomplete answers give benefit of doubt to an omniscient, wise God.

Thomas had many doubts due to disappointed expectations, lack of understanding Script/doctrine, tragic loss of close friend.

- Jesus didn't ignore/reject/abandon Thomas because of his doubts.
  - Jesus lovingly, graciously pursued Thomas and revealed Himself to Thomas.

lost, prodigals, doubters you're putting faith in something...Why not risen, living Savior.....His resurrection is historically true, whether you believe/not. John 20:29-31

- honestly, diligent, personally seek answer to doubts Jesus/Christianity in Word/prayer.
  - Find Jesus Christ is the only way, truth, life and by grace saved or restored.
    - Receive blessing because believe though not see Him...YET!