

The Doubters

Easter Sunday night

John 20:19 -21

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

The disciples were a group of Jesus followers including part of the twelve, Mary and Martha etc. But not Thomas the disciple. Thomas shows up late after Jesus had left.

John 20:24-25

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]), 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.”

What Does God Do with Doubters?

Exasperation Maybe.

Matthew 8:26

He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

Education Possibly

Matthew 6:30

30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Rejection Never!

Mark 9:24

24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Jesus said, "I came to seek and save that which was lost"

The work of salvation was finished at the resurrection; why did Jesus stick around for 40 days when his work was done?

The 40 Days Was for the Doubters

John 20:30-31

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **31** But these are written that you may *believe* that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Now To the Sunday Night Following Easter

Eamus ran back to Jerusalem

Remember Thomas statement the week before: 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 20:26-28

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!"

Now A Word from Jesus for You.

John 20:29

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."