



FOLLOWING JESUS: IN YOUR DOUBTS – May 2024

*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. ~ Jesus*

People who hear about the Resurrection for the first time may need time before they can comprehend this amazing story. Thomas was not with the other disciples for Jesus' first visit in 20:21-23. Consistent with his character elsewhere in the Gospel, Thomas was skeptical toward his friends' report about seeing Jesus. He represented hardheaded realism by insisting that seeing and touching Jesus for himself would be the only proof that would satisfy him.

When the disciples told Thomas that Jesus had appeared to them, he did not believe. Thomas insisted that he see the Jesus who had been crucified. He wanted bodily proof — to see and touch the nail scars in Jesus's hands and to place his hand into the wound in Jesus's side. Sometimes people overemphasize the doubtful part of Thomas's character. John 11:16 reveals Thomas as tough-minded and committed, even if he tended to be pessimistic. And Matthew 28:17 points out that all the disciples shared Thomas's skepticism. It was part of his character to put the group's feeling into words. Most of the disciples did not believe until they saw Christ face-to-face.

Jesus made it clear that our faith must be based on the testimony of those who were with him. Insisting on seeing and touching Christ ourselves would indicate a reluctance to believe.

Read John 20:1-31, Jude 1:20-23, John 6:68, Mark 9:21-24

1. Have there been times where you struggled with doubt with God's faithfulness? How so?
2. Are there times you wish you could sit down with Jesus and get His advice? What would you ask?
3. Why do you think Thomas separated himself from the other disciples and what did he miss by not being with them?
4. Pastor Riddle mentioned ways to keep seasons of doubt from overwhelming us. *Community & Jesus know your struggles.* What does this communicate to you?
5. Over the course of your life, can you see examples where God was seeking you rather than you seeking Him?

Outreach: What are some ways you can help others who struggle with faith and doubt?

