

Christ at the Crossroad of Doubt

(John 20:24-29)

Introduction: Opinions about doubt vary—greatly. To some, doubt represents rank unbelief, the worst kind of blasphemy. Disturbing lessons occur in all our lives. Messy ones that send doubts splitting deep into those sacred beliefs we once thought rock-solid and beyond question. It's in those moments of dark turmoil that we, like that father in Mark 9, cry out, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

I. When _____ Emerge: "I Do Not _____"

- A) Doubts come to us when we reach the limits of our understanding.
- B) Some circumstances often raise unsettling questions.
- C) Should we be afraid of those questions?
- D) Ecclesiastes 7:25

II. Why Thomas _____: "I Will Not _____"

- A) Thomas was a thinker who had the courage to ask questions.
- B) Yet he even had the courage to die for the Lord (John 11:7-16).
- C) The Last Supper (John 13-14).
 1. Only Thomas had the courage to question (14:1-5).
 2. His question prompted Jesus to give the clearest direction (v. 6).
- D) John 20
 1. After Christ's death for three days all the disciples grieved (vs. 19-21, 24).
 2. As the disciples brought news to Thomas is when he utters the pessimistic words we remember him by (vs. 25).
 3. It would take touching the resurrected Savior's wounds to heal the wounds in Thomas' faith (vs. 26-28).
 4. Jesus extended a blessing upon those in the future whose doubts would be healed because they could touch His wounds with the hands of faith (v. 29).

III. How _____ Occurs: "I Cannot _____"

- A) Throughout any life lived honestly and reflectively, there will be moments of doubt, times when we will feel that we cannot cope.
- B) How do we keep growing in the midst of those difficulties?
- C) Non-reflective people ask, "What could be worse than unanswered questions?" Reflective people answer, "Unquestioned answers."
- D) Any question asked earnestly, without a hidden agenda, is not a skeptical question, it's an honest search.

Conclusion: May we have the courage to never stop asking or searching!

My Notes: