

DOUBTERS TO DISCIPLES

PRECEPT

JOHN 20:25-28

²⁵ So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the marks of the nails, and put my finger into the nail prints, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe.” ²⁶ Eight days 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!”

PROMISE

There’s a common misconception that once we confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour of our lives, the struggles with sin will be behind us. After all, as believers, we’re told we have been sealed with God’s Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13–14) and that we are now new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). But it doesn’t take long for us to recognize that even the most dedicated of believers are far from perfect—even among those who regularly attend church.

Struggles within the church are not a new phenomenon. As we’ve seen in the past three weeks, the disciples struggled with their imperfect faith all throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry. And that struggle did not end after His resurrection. Matthew 28:16–20 recounts Jesus’ last instructions to His disciples and His promise to return before He ascends to heaven right before their eyes. But in verse 17, we read, “When [the eleven] saw him they worshipped him, but some doubted.” Even after all they had witnessed before and after the crucifixion, there was a measure of doubt that remained.

There are many circumstances in life that can make us doubt who Jesus really is and what He’s capable of doing. There are unfair situations, unresolved pains, unanswered prayers, unaddressed questions, or even the unimaginable future that can make us doubt the sovereignty of God. We must remember that doubts are not for condemnation, but an invitation for a deeper conversation to a greater foundation of faith.

There is a notable disciple of Jesus who had an immense doubt on His resurrection. John 20:25-28 tells us of this story. Although the other disciples resisted believing Jesus had been raised until He appeared to them in a locked room and showed Himself, Thomas not only rejects this but also demanded a visual proof of it (verse 25). Despite his deliberate choice to disbelieve Christ, Jesus graciously offered Thomas what he wanted. Jesus was there in the flesh to give Thomas the opportunity to do what he said can make him believe. He then humbly confessed that Jesus is Lord and God.

May we have the same humility as Thomas portrayed, that despite our current situation and how seemingly impossible our circumstances may be, let us trust that our Lord and Saviour is ahead of us and is always in control. He wants us to believe and have faith despite our trials, and He will rescue us from our hardships, more so from our doubts and disbelief.

PRACTICE

1. Struggle with Doubt. How does knowing that the disciples still struggled with doubt, disobedience, and sin even after they matured in their faith encourage you in your present relationship with Christ?

2. Witness for Christ. What are some steps we can take together to strengthen each other in our faith and become better witnesses for Christ to our city, town, or community?

PRAYER

I. COVID

- Pray for healing and strength for all of those afflicted with the virus.

II. Church

- Pray for strength and passion as we strive to attain our church mission and vision.

III. Members

- Pray that we will all be intentional in sharing Jesus to others & continue to grow in His likeness.

IV. Leaders

- Pray that God will empower and equip our leaders to guide His people in the truth of His Word.

V. Life Groups

- Pray that we will all have one heart and one goal; to inspire and lead people to know Jesus.

VI. Pastors & Elders

- Pray for wisdom, provision, & guidance for Ptr. Jeffrey & Roann Basco & all our elders.

VII. Worship Services

- Pray that our worship services will minister to people and be a blessing to them.