



Doubt to Faith

John 20:24-29 | Ryan Pfeiffer | April 20, 2025

INTRO. Have you ever felt FOMO... only to find out you really did MISS OUT!

- Suppose to go to a concert w/ friends & a cute girl I was getting to know.
- Parked my car in a red zone... ran up to grab my stuff... car towed!
- The whole day... FOMO... concert and girl... She even asked about me!

Where was Thomas!? Was his donkey towed? Talk about MISSING OUT!

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

I wonder if he felt like we do... like an outsider... regret... slightly irritated...

I think when we have doubts about God... we can feel like outsiders...

I chose this passage because it has a crucial lesson for us...

Doubt doesn't have to be a barrier between us and God... it can be a door to faith... this passage gives us some handles to open the door.

FOCUS. We're going to look at how Thomas moves from honest doubt to honest faith.

FIRST. HONEST DOUBT. 25 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."

I absolutely love Thomas!! Because he voices what a lot of us would feel

I'm not trying to glorify doubt... but I love how the Bible encourages honesty

There are different kinds of doubt...

1. Hidden Doubt... (pretend like I fit in. Hope it just goes away)...
2. Angry doubt... (past disappointment)...
3. Arrogant doubt (ID marker... I'm too smart for this)...

There is a posture of doubting that is looking for a way NOT TO BELIEVE...

A study looked at the common ways people respond to doubt.

- 45% left their church
- 29% Stopped reading the Bible.
- 25% ceased discussions about spirituality with friends/ family.

This is the opposite of what Thomas did.

Honest doubt is doubt that is willing to believe.

There are 3 things Thomas did to engage his doubt honestly:



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- He spoke up about his doubt to those he trusted.
- He stayed in relationship with others who were on a spiritual journey.
26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them.
- He was willing to investigate and draw near to God.

26 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.

I think this represents Jesus' readiness to meet us where we are at when we are humble enough to bring our doubts to him.

Three amazing promises from God:

1. James 4:8 "Come near to God and he will come near to you"
2. Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord" (ESV)
3. Luke 11:10 Everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Honest doubt is humble enough to investigate with an open mind.

SECOND. HONEST FAITH. 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Thomas goes from being the biggest doubter to the biggest believer!

Thomas is the first person recorded to recognize that Jesus is God!

Honest faith comes from honest doubt

It's faith in the whole truth about the resurrected Jesus...

Many believe that Jesus was a good teacher, a prophet (other religions), perhaps even miracle worker... But Jesus claimed more than all of that.

Jesus claimed to be God incarnate... God clothed in human form.

- Jesus claimed the authority to forgive sins... only God has that authority.
- Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I AM." Jn 5:58. I AM. Name of God. Ex 3:14
- Jesus' enemies recognized his claim: Jn 10:38. You a mere man claim to be God!
- Jesus accepted people's worship. Whereas angels always stopped people.

RESPONSE. Revelation 3:20 Here I AM! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

God is speaking to you today... he has brought you here for this very reason.

What does it mean to open the door?

1. Lean into the resurrected Jesus with Honest Doubt— ALPHA SLIDE.
- Maybe you are ready for Honest Faith in the resurrected Jesus.



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Like Thomas:

- To publicly declare... The resurrected Jesus is your Lord and God
- To take a stand today... even as part of your baptism...

Matt 10:32 Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my faith in heaven.