

## Doubt – March 3, 2021

**We don't like to admit/discuss doubt b/c Thomas got a bad rap. But if you've had doubt at some point, you aren't alone.**

**1** - Mother Teresa (Calcutta) struggled w/it. Her letters; book - 2007 (1959) "If there be no God -- there can be no soul -- if there is no Soul then Jesus -- You also are not true."

**2 – John 20 – Doubting Thomas** – "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."

**3 – John 6 – Jesus was teaching that He was the bread of life.**

a. **vs. 64** – "Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him."

b. John 6:66-68 - From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. 67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

**4 - John 7 – Jesus' brothers doubted**

a. <sup>3</sup> Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. <sup>4</sup> No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup> For even his own brothers did not believe in him."

**5 - Jesus' healed a man's son/disciples could not – Mark 9:21-24 –**

a. "Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" From childhood," he answered. 22 "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." 23 "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." 24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

**6 John the Baptist** even had doubt - Luke 7:18-35/Matt. 11:1-5

a. John sent 2 followers to ask Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

- b. Jesus replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy[a] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

**7** Matthew’s gospel ends with the Great Commission

- a. It shows, even then, other disciples still had doubt
- b. Matt.28:18-20 The Great Commission - 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
- c. vs 16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

**8** If you’ve ever had doubts, struggle w/ them – you aren’t alone.

- a. Don’t ignore it – stay hidden in your room in Jerusalem.
- b. Go to Galilee. Meet Jesus. Continue on.
- c. Get with people who worship.
- d. Don’t give up. Remember this: you aren’t alone. “Jesus came near to them.” He said, “I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
  - i. We don’t tell Jesus, I am with you always. Nope.
  - ii. Disciples deserted Him. But Jesus won’t desert us.
- e. We have doubts b/c we have questions. We don’t understand.
  - i. But God answers prayers – yes/yes.
- f. “Hope is the bridge between doubt and faith.”
  1. Doubts can strengthen our faith. Think of how much we appreciate the sun after a week of overcast days.
  2. When doubts come, go to Galilee. Spend time with God. Ask Him to help your unbelief.

Song – “Make It Real & Lord, Help My Unbelief” by Mark Lowry and  
“Help My Unbelief” by Johnmark Skoch