

# SAINT PAUL/ST. ELIZABETH FAITH COMMUNITY

## WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

### LIVING THE RESURRECTION LIFE

“Living with Both Faith & Doubt”, Part 1

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

6PM

#### **Text: John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup> It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup> Thomas, the one called Didymus,<sup>[a]</sup> one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!” But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won’t believe.”

<sup>26</sup> After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!”

<sup>28</sup> Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples’ presence, signs that aren’t recorded in this scroll. <sup>31</sup> But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

**I. Exploring the Text**

- a. What themes and concepts do you see in the text? (i.e., fear)
- b. What questions do you have for the text?
- c. In the text, can you see the importance of the words from Jesus, "*Peace be with you*"? (v19, v26)
- d. Can you identify with Thomas' skepticism? (v25). What do you think Thomas was seeking?

**II. Living with Faith and Doubt**

- a. Theologian Paul Tillich once said, "*Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is a dimension of faith.*"? What's your response to that as a Christian Disciple?
  - i. Do you think a Christian can live with both faith and doubt? Why? Why Not
  - ii. What do you think are '*seeds of doubt*'?
- b. Consider the following doubters in the bible:
  - i. Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17:17; Genesis 18:10-12)
  - ii. Moses (Exodus 3)
  - iii. Gideon (Judges 6-8)
  - iv. Job
- c. How do we reconcile? (4/21)
  - i. How do we minimize our doubt?
  - ii. How do we increase our faith?