

Easter Sunday | The Benefit of Doubt | Pastor Guy

4-20-25

Summary

Pastor Guy focused on Thomas's doubt following Jesus's resurrection and how doubt can actually lead to deeper faith. One major point he made is that doubt is different from unbelief, and that it's better to doubt openly than struggle silently. Through Thomas's story, we see how Jesus compassionately meets people in their doubt (and can meet us in our doubt) and helps them find their way to genuine faith.

Intro Prayer

Lord, as we gather to discuss your Word, we ask that you would open our hearts and minds to understand how you work through our doubts and questions. Help us to be honest about our struggles and to support one another as we seek to grow in faith. Guide our discussion and reveal your truth to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Have you ever doubted something that everyone else seemed certain about? What was that experience like?

Key Verses

John 20:19 ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

John 20:24-29 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!"

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."

²⁶ A week 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!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:30-31 ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[a] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 3:16 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Questions

Why do you think Thomas wasn't satisfied with the other disciples' testimony about seeing Jesus?

Where have you struggled with doubt in following God?

How do you typically handle your doubts about faith?

What's the difference between doubt and unbelief according to the sermon?

Why do you think Jesus waited seven days before appearing to Thomas?

How can doubt actually strengthen someone's faith rather than weaken it?

What role does community play in helping people work through their doubts?

What can we learn from how Jesus responded to Thomas's doubt?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of doubt in your faith journey and commit to exploring it rather than ignoring it. Share this doubt with a trusted friend or small group member and ask them to pray with you and help you seek answers.

Key Takeaways

Doubt is the path to deeper faith when we actively engage with it

It's better to doubt out loud than struggle in silence

Jesus meets us where we are in our doubts

Doubt is different from unbelief - doubt questions while unbelief refuses

God can use our doubts to strengthen our faith and testimony