



"HAVE FAITH IN THE RISEN LORD"

John 20:19-31

April 19, 2020

Questions for Fellowship & Application

MY STORY

1. Thomas is the disciple of Jesus remembered as “the doubter.” Did you have any areas of doubt prior to becoming a Christian? Have you continued to struggle with any areas of doubt as a follower of Christ?

QUICK REVIEW

This passage takes us back to the first Easter. It’s resurrection Sunday. Most of the disciples are locked behind closed doors when Jesus appears to them. Thomas was not there, and experienced great doubt hearing the others’ story. One week later Jesus appears again. This time Thomas is there. Jesus transforms his heart. And, Jesus calls all those who hear to believe, even if they don’t see with their eyes.

Read John 20:19-31

Three Gifts for Believers:

1. Jesus gives His _____ (20:19, 21, & 26).
2. Jesus gives His _____ (20:20:21).
3. Jesus gives His _____ (20:22).

Was any point in this weekend’s message particularly challenging, encouraging or helpful for you?

Why did God want you to hear this message now?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In verse 19, we read that the disciples locked themselves into a room out of fear of the Jews, speaking of Jewish leaders and authorities. Fear is one of the greatest struggles among Christians today. How do you think fear affects the church? How does it hinder us? How have you been “locked in” by fear?
2. Once in the room, the risen Lord’s first words are “Peace be with you.” He repeats this greeting three times. Describe your understanding of the peace that Jesus gives in terms of how it builds faith and overcomes fear.
3. What is the condition of your heart and soul a full month into the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown? Are you in a place of fear, agitation, or peace? Something else? A blend? Is this condition what God desires for you?
4. Jesus breathes his divine breath on the disciples and gives them the Holy Spirit, bringing them new life and power. Discuss ways that we can yield to the Holy Spirit to engage in risk, to break barriers, and step out for Jesus in faith. Where do your passions lie? What are your barriers? How will the Holy Spirit help?
5. Thomas is known for his struggle with doubt. Praise God, this struggle was overcome by an encounter with Christ that is available to us by faith. Why is doubt a danger to the Christian life, and how is it overcome? What do these passages have to say?

Matthew 14:27-33

Mark 11:20-25

James 1:5-9