

June 22nd, 2025

An Empty Tomb
John 20

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 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." 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!" 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." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
John 20:24-29 (NIV)

OVERVIEW

- An empty tomb. John 20:1-10
- Jesus appears to Mary. John 20:11-18
- Jesus appears to the disciples. John 20:19-23
- Jesus appears to Thomas. John 20:19-29

Jesus meets us where we are in our _____.

- The Bible doesn't _____ doubt.
- Doubt is not _____.
- Doubt and faith are not _____.

How Doubt Strengthens Faith:

1. Doubt can _____ and _____ belief.

1Tim 1:18-19

- _____ Issues?
- _____ Issues?
- _____ Issues?

*Tim Keller. *The Reason for God*

2. Doubt allows us to experience God's _____ and _____.

3. Doubt teaches us to _____.

TALK IT OVER

Since growth groups take the summer off and because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways a teaching alone cannot, we encourage you to reach out weekly to someone and discuss the following:

What stood out most in the message to you regarding something that you learned, challenged you, or that you disagreed with? And, in what ways can you see these truths being lived out in your relationships and life this week?

Read John 20 and note what stands out to you. Share your thoughts with the group.

Why is the resurrection so important to Christian faith?

How is it possible that even at the empty tomb Peter and John "still did not understand from scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead?" What evidence helps you believe in the resurrection?

How has Jesus met you where you were in your doubts?

What causes you to doubt God at times? What categories of doubt (from The Reason for God) do you most often experience? What makes it hard for you to talk about your doubts? How does it help you to see Mary and the disciples have doubts?

How has doubt helped to strengthen your faith?



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Jesus meets us where we are in our doubts.

- The Bible doesn't hide doubt.
- Doubt is not unbelief.
- Doubt and faith are not mutually exclusive.

How Doubt Strengthens Faith:

1. Doubt can clarify and deepen belief.

1Tim 1:18-19

- Content Issues?
 - Coherence Issues?
 - Cost Issues?
- *Tim Keller. *The Reason for God*

2. Doubt allows us to experience God's love and faithfulness.

3. Doubt teaches us to live by faith.

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