

Skeptic | Summer Series Part 3 | Corey Green 07.21.2019
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Memory Verse: John 14:1 (NIV)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.”

John 20:24-25

“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.”

- Why do you think Thomas didn’t believe the other disciples?
- Has your Faith ever waivered—even for a moment? (Faith in general or of that a miracle could happen)
- When have you felt like you needed proof or evidence to believe?
- Have you ever asked God “show me a sign”?

John 11:5-16

“⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.” ⁸ “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.” ¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.” ¹² His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. ¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

- What did Jesus mean when He said “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”? (Do not hide? Stick together?)

When most of the disciples were afraid to go to Judea, Thomas was had faith and courage. Even though later he would be labeled as “Doubting Thomas”, he had more courage and faith at other times.

- Has there been a time where you were courageous and stepped out in Faith—only to later fall back and need reassurance?

John 14:1-7

“¹⁴ ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?’ ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.’ Jesus the Way to the Father ⁵ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ ⁶ Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.’”

Thomas was honest with Jesus and asked, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” and Jesus answered him. When we bring our doubts and fears to God and seek the truth through Him, He will meet us and reveal Himself to us.

- Is it hard for you to be honest with God?
- When have you asked God to reveal something to you?
- How did He answer you?

John 20:26-29

“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.’”

This morning’s message reminded us that Jesus meets Thomas with both an Evidential Answer and an Existential Answer. He offers the evidence of His resurrection, but He also offers Himself. If we are looking for the evidence, we will find it, but it will never fully satisfy our doubts or the longing of our hearts. Those can only be fully satisfied by the Person of Jesus. He is the one to whom we are to bring our doubts, and ultimately the one of whom the evidence speaks. Jesus told Thomas to “Stop doubting and believe” –in what area of your life do you need to stop doubting and believe that God is present and working?