

“The Day Doubt Walked In”

John 20:25-31

Introduction

(Illustration: “We Walk by Faith – the Day Doubt Came”)

Often as we journey down the path way of life, along comes doubt to meet us as the day goes by. Perhaps we hear the salvation message again, which is glorious that it is being preached, and yet we question am I really saved? We dare not speak with anyone else, for our pride would be injured. They may ask are you really saved? Don't let pride stop you often a doubt can be crushed and that first love of Christ perhaps be refreshed anew as you realize that you can't loose your salvation but just had it refreshed in your own mind once more.

As doubt pounds on our mind I want us to understand that we must turn back to the Bible because that is where our doubts can be quenched, we must not have “an evil heart of unbelief.”

A bit of background before we begin to study about doubt. How many here have heard of doubting Thomas? You know many of us our probably related to him somehow, the blood line of doubt has quite a lineage.

We'll start by looking at the day Thomas doubted. To get the context, please turn with me to John 20:19-24 *“Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.”* Lets dive into the first stage of doubting, I want to see it, is salvation really true?

1. Doubting Stage One – Hard heart revealed - Let's see it, is salvation really true, what do you think? v. 25

Here is an illustration to illustrate what happens with our hearts. (Illustration: “Hardening of the Heart”)

Please read with me verse 25.

“The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.” v.25

- a. Thomas basically says, “unless I see him myself, I will not, not believe.” v.25
 - i. Give me proof physical proof or I will not believe. I want to be able to see him, and touch him, even thrusting my hand into his side. Thomas wanted proof so much so that he said not, not. Double negative, this isn't to be taken as we would in English and make it yes I will believe but more like no, never will I believe.
 - ii. Perhaps Thomas was spouting off. So often we do this before even truly thinking about it and listening to God. Never will I be a missionary, never will I believe I would rather doubt.
- b. Are you like Thomas will you no, never believe?
 - i. There is a possibility that Thomas had believed in the past. But now he saw Jesus die

and the proof is too much for him, he won't believe. His Savior is dead he thinks. If this is true then our faith is in vain. 2 Corinthians 15:17 But is it true did Jesus remain dead? No as Thomas will find out.

- ii. Or perhaps Thomas isn't saved as of yet and he is like the so called intellectual out there that needs physical proof to touch and see. Way too often we fit into the category of a doubting believer.
- iii. We won't believe because well we have too many doubts. Those doubts well up from a hard heart. We are rebuked in Hebrews 3:12-13 for this hard heart. *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."* (Hebrews 3:12-13) **But we still don't want to listen we want to question.**

2. Doubting Stage Two - Questioning - Let's look at it, and feel it, does salvation really exist, well does it? v. 26,27

Are you questioning God? **(Illustration: "Doubting God's Promises")**

Please read with me verses 26, 27. *"And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing."* v.26,27

a. Thomas, Salvation is here for You! v. 26

Jesus didn't leave Thomas in unbelief, he came again. Jesus cares so much for each individual. As a couple commentaries noted Thomas perhaps worried over those eight days wondering is Jesus truly alive? **Wow what a battle, how long will we battle it out wondering, doubting?**

b. Thomas, Salvation is real will you feel Him? v. 27a,b

i. Jesus didn't condemn Thomas but said, *"behold my hands."*

Thomas I've got proof for you **(hand gesture look at hands, put finger where nail would have been)**, feel my hands, see my hands. **"Thomas you want proof look the nail prints are still visible, you can even touch them."** Thrust your very hand into my side, a word study showed that this word even means violently. **(hand gesture into side)** Jesus really went all out for Thomas didn't he? He didn't condemn him but offered proof. **Does Jesus condemn you, for your doubt?**

ii. Jesus doesn't condemn us for doubt.

Please read with me from 1 John 5:11-13, here we find that words were written in 1 John for our benefit in believing. *"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."* (1 John 5:11-13) **Jesus does not leave Thomas there doubting he wants him to decide.**

c. Salvation is touchable don't be faithless.

i. **"Touch me Thomas, don't be faithless."**

Don't be unbelieving Thomas, a book put it this way **"stop becoming disbelieving."** Can you perhaps see Jesus there rebuking or pleading with Thomas **"why will you not**

- believe I am here, Thomas will you not believe, **why won't we believe?"**
- ii. Turn to God's Word don't be faithless.
We are so often like Thomas even if we are saved we doubt we wonder when we have the very book that is sitting in our laps that can quench the fire of doubt that is welling up within us. As Cameron spoke last week on Devotions, setting time aside for God. If we only knew how many times staying in God's word daily has quenched a raging inferno of doubt within us, or would have if we had been doing devotions. **We must believe.**
 - d. Salvation is real believe, you and I must believe, don't doubt!
 - i. Thomas believe!
Jesus perhaps could have said, **"be believing Thomas, be believing. I, Jesus am the very proof you asked of, believe in me."** Will Thomas be a doubter any longer? Will you and I be a doubter any longer?
 - ii. You believe, and I must we must turn away from doubt.
We must turn from our doubt and turn to the living God. Thomas realized this that day. It is very awesome that Jesus sought him out and said Thomas here I am. **Will we believe will we realize salvation is real, will we stop doubting?**

3. Doubting Stage Three - Conquered – Let's realize it, salvation is real and doubt is destroyed, is this true? v.28-31

Do not doubt but turn to God. **(Illustration: "Turn Your Face To The Light")**

Please read with me verses 28-31. *"And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."*

- a. Thomas realizes the realness of Christ.
 - i. My Lord and My God, Thomas' personal Saviour.
In verse 28 perhaps this is a realization of faith or a doubt quenched but not to be doubted is that Jesus is God! If we choose to say well Jesus was just a man, and well God is God, they are both different. Thomas knew better, Jesus is God. Something else is shown in this passage Thomas realizes that Jesus is his very own Lord and God. **He is your personal Savior also!**
 - ii. Your personal Saviour, wow!
Do you know this? Is Jesus your Lord and God or is he just some historical character, to you? At a Bible college I would hope it is the first, and often we may doubt and in our doubting wonder if He is only a historical character. Turn back to Christ listen and realize that Jesus is your personal Savior. He is not your Savior because somebody else believes in Him but only because you believed in Him. Please turn with me to John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*
 - iii. Oh so familiar a verse and you may wonder why I even bring it up, do I question your salvation? That is not why I bring it up, I want to encourage you in the faith, I want you if you are doubting right now to turn back, to the first love of Christ. Please turn to Revelations 2:4-5 *"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."* **Please do not let a hard heart slow, or stop your Christian walk but be as**

Thomas and believe.

b. Thomas saw and believed, yet blessed are we if we believe and do not see.

v.29 Please read with me v. 29 *“Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.”*

i. But Thomas saw Jesus physically how can I believe without seeing?

Faith is not something of sight, do I see the air and yet it moves a tree as Jesus illustrated to Nicodemus in John 3. In 2nd Corinthians 5:7 we find how we walk in the Christian life. *“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”* Peter also writes about how we see and yet believe. *“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:”* 1 Peter 1:8 The Bible is available to look in to read to divide our very heart Hebrews 4:12 *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* **Our faith is in Christ, believe the Bible, believe the promises there in we have not the glorified body of Jesus visually before us and yet we have his very words spoken to us in this wondrous possession in each of our laps, God's Word.**

ii. Look back to God's Word for therein do we see Jesus throughout! v.30,31

Please read with me verses 30,31. *“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”*

1. Jesus did many other things not written, but the ones here are written so that we may “believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;” **So much is written in God's Word look to it.**

2. Look to the Word do you not know the scriptures that predicted Christ?” Look at Micah 5:2 Christ was to be born in Bethlehem. Look again, at Isaiah 53 *“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:5-12)”* Do you not see the trial and crucifixion of Christ prophecied around 700 years before he died not too long before

Thomas doubted. **Do you doubt, or do you believe?**

3. The question is do you have life through Jesus' name? How do you get that life? It is through believing. If you do not have life and have not believed not please get that question answered if you are doubting turn back to God's Word. **Let us conclude with a few thoughts.**

Conclusion

I doubt, you doubt please don't let it stop you or hurt you. Jesus didn't condemn Thomas neither should we condemn someone who doubts, questions? No, but in meekness not as a ruler over them come to them in love, share, and warn them of a hard heart. Perhaps this will be sharing the gospel for the first time, perhaps it will be words of encouragement to quench the doubting. But remember Salvation is really true, Salvation does really exist, and Salvation is real, and doubt is defeated.

Will you be a doubting Thomas, a hard hearted Thomas, or will you be a bold Thomas that will proclaim to the world for all to hear.

“My Lord! and my God!”