

Sermon Notes

Week of Sunday, April 4

Easter Weekend

Mark 20:24-29 (ESV)

Speaker: Mark Saunders



Part 1: Stages of Thomas

A. Defeated Thomas

14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, 15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." - John 11:14-16

B. Dazed and Confused Thomas

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." - John 14:3-6

C. Absent Thomas

24 Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.

D. Doubting Thomas

25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Part 2: Stages of Us

A. How does Jesus want to help us with our doubt?

1. He wants to grant us peace.

26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

2. He wants to show us He can be trusted

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

B. What happens to us when Jesus helps us with our doubt?

1. We can't help but make Him our Lord and our God.

28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Life Group Study Notes
Week of Sunday, April 4
Based on Sermon: Easter 2015

Spend some time answering these questions before going to your Life Group.



Getting Started

1. In what ways have you doubted God in your life?
2. How has the resurrection of Jesus altered the trajectory of your life personally? How has it altered your family's life?
3. Read John 20:24-29. How has Jesus proven to be real in your life? If you are a Christian, describe when your life went from unbelief to belief. How did your life change through that conversion?
4. Verse 26 speaks of Jesus just showing up in the disciples' midst. Tell of a time when Jesus just showed up in your life when you needed Him most. What did that look like? How did that encounter change your perspective on God's love for you?

5. Read John 11:1-16. What is the irony of Thomas' statement in verse 16? What does this statement say about Thomas' faith in Jesus?

6. Do you ever identify with Thomas' statement in verse 16? Have you witnessed miracles in your life, but still get overwhelmed when new challenges come your way? How can you more fully trust Jesus in the midst of difficult times?

7. Read John 14:1-11. In verse six Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (ESV)." What is the significance of this verse? How has this truth transformed your life? What is your obligation to others who don't know Christ?

Digging Deeper

Write down on paper the names of at least three people you know that haven't yet put their faith in Christ. Pray this week (and beyond) asking God to use you in their lives so they might know Him as their Lord and Savior. Be obedient to what God might be calling you to do.