

## From Doubt to Belief

**Intro.** “I’ll believe it when I see it?” This usually means we doubt because we have been disappointed about something (or someone). It can express serious doubt or just be humor; both are a challenge for proof - show me. Thomas seems to have serious doubt about his friends’ claims regarding the resurrection or, he may be just exaggerating for effect. Whichever it was, he moved from doubt to belief.

**I.** On our calendars the first day of the week is Sunday. That means it was Sunday evening, the same day they discovered the empty tomb. The disciple may have been confused, but they did the one thing that brought a little comfort: they came together as a community to share whatever would happen, even if was to be arrested. At least they

would go together. They were still shaken and so afraid they locked the doors. The unimaginable happened – the Lord appeared. His words were the usual, customary greeting, “Peace be with you.” But in that moment, it meant more; it was a gift to the grieving. The Lord’s words were not angry or scolding for abandoning and betraying him. The words spoke of forgiveness. We don’t know why Thomas was not there. Maybe he was too heartbroken or ashamed. The disciples could not convince him they had seen the Lord, but *he didn’t miss the next meeting*. One reflection I have it to imagine the smiles on the faces of the disciples as they waited for Thomas’ reaction to the Lord’s presence. I think they were disappointed by his humble response, “My Lord and my God.” He did not huff and puff saying, “I knew all along; I was

just kidding you guys.” He had *hoped* it was true. He didn’t need to poke the Lord with his finger to see if he was flesh or spirit; putting his eyes on the Lord was enough.

**Concl.** No one could blame the disciples for being afraid because their world was in turmoil. They didn’t know who to believe. In *their* wounded state, the Lord, his own wounds visible, found them and offered the one thing they didn’t have but needed: peace. That was a starting point for them to find belief in the Lord again. Some days our belief is solid as the big stone tablet in front of our church. Other days, due to tragedies like cancer, accidents or betrayals, belief slips through our fingers like sand at the beach. When we have doubts, where or to whom do we go? It may be difficult to go to the Lord we doubt, but we *can* ask God why. Scripture is another

place to go and look for help; what have others done. We may choose to go to family or friends. We could also decide to come here, our upper room, a place where we might discover peace. We will find people who understand faith and doubt because we have all felt *both*. Doubt makes us examine in whom and what we believe. Faith is an on-going process. **In any of these places or people, like Thomas, we seek a personal experience of the risen Lord; someone who has seen him. Be one of those people.**

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Second Sunday of Easter, 2022