

Doubters Welcome – Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

John 20:24-31

Do you believe in miracles? That's a good question on Easter. By miracles I mean contrary-to-human-possibility events that have no natural explanation. The resurrection of Jesus is that kind of miracle. It is totally unexplainable by any human or natural means. We don't know how it happened. Do you believe in the greatest miracle of all—the resurrection of Jesus from the dead?

If you answered "I'm not sure," you are in good company. There are many people who aren't sure they believe it or not. There were many people on the first Easter Sunday who weren't sure either. Folks like Peter, James, John, Matthew and Thomas, Doubting Thomas. None of the apostles truly believed until they saw Jesus for themselves. The women came to the tomb to finish anointing His body, not to meet the risen Lord. None of the apostles believed the report of the women. Thomas is best known for his lack of belief. In reality, Thomas was an honest and courageous follower of Jesus. There were many threats against Jesus' life. Yet, He chose to go and raise Lazarus from the dead, even with the threat of being stoned to death. When facing the possibility of being killed by the angry mob, Thomas responded, "Let us go, that we may die with Him (John 11:16).

After all these years, we seem to only identify Thomas with his doubts. We look down on Him; but not Jesus! Eight days later Jesus appeared to the disciples a second time. This time Thomas was there. Jesus spoke to Thomas as to one whose faith is weak. He did not call him evil. Jesus met Thomas exactly where he was and said, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:27)

Jesus knew all about Thomas' doubts. He came just so Thomas could be sure. He did not condemn him. He proved Himself to Thomas. **Doubters are welcome at the empty tomb.** It's okay to be an honest doubter. I believe that Jesus can and will reveal Himself to you as well. It's natural to doubt, but don't let your doubts keep you away from Jesus. Come to the empty tomb yourself. When his doubts were satisfied, Thomas confessed, "My Lord and my God." (John 20:28)