

Doubters Welcome

Sunday, April 1st 2018

John 20:24-29 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." 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."

Do you believe in miracles?

- Do you believe in honest-to-goodness, old-fashioned acts of God?
- That's a good question to ask on Easter Sunday.
- The crucifixion we can understand, the resurrection is another matter.

John 14:1-5 "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. 5 **Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"**

- So the picture we have of Thomas on the eve of the crucifixion is this:
- He is a brave man, intensely loyal and deeply committed to Jesus.
- If need be, he is ready to lay down his own life.
- He is completely honest about his doubts, confusion and fears.

Mark 16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

- That was part of the embalming process.
- **They came to perform a ritual, but walked into a miracle**

Doubters are welcome!

- Do you believe in the miracle we celebrate on Easter?
- If you answer "No" or "I'm not sure," then welcome.
- It's okay to be an honest.
- When you're ready, Jesus will be there waiting for you.

Like Thomas Jesus is saying to you today.

"Stop Doubting And Believe"