

RICK HICKS MINISTRIES

When Doubt Becomes a Blessing

How Questions Can Lead Us Closer to Christ

CLASSROOM EDITION

Primary Scripture: John 20:24-29 (KJV)

"Faith is not having every question answered. Faith is knowing whom you will trust when the answers do not come."

Opening Thought

Thomas is often remembered by one word: doubt. But John does not end Thomas's story with doubt. He ends it with a confession: "My Lord and my God." Thomas had questions, and Jesus met him in the middle of them. That does not make every doubt good, nor does it mean we should make doubt our home. It shows us that an honest question, brought to Christ, can become a doorway to deeper faith.

Read the Scripture Together

John 20:24-29 (KJV)

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

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.

26 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.

27 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.

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

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.

Part 1 - Before We Call Him "Doubting Thomas"

Thomas had already followed Jesus. He had heard His teaching, seen His works, and walked with the other disciples. Now Jesus had been crucified, and Thomas was hearing something that seemed impossible: the others said Jesus was alive.

1. What does verse 24 tell us that may help explain why Thomas reacted differently from the other disciples?

2. What do you hear in Thomas's words in verse 25 - simple curiosity, pain, fear of being disappointed again, stubbornness, or something else?

3. Is there a difference between an honest question and a heart that has already decided it will not believe God? What might that difference look like?

Part 2 - Jesus Meets Thomas

Eight days later, Thomas was with the disciples. Jesus came into the room and spoke directly to the very concerns Thomas had expressed.

4. What stands out to you about the way Jesus approaches Thomas in verses 26-27?

5. What does Jesus' response teach us about bringing our real questions to Him instead of hiding them?

Part 3 - Doubt Is Not the Destination

6. What changes in Thomas between verse 25 and verse 28?

7. Why are the words "My Lord and my God" so important?

Part 4 - Faith When We Cannot See

Jesus then looks beyond Thomas to those who would believe without standing in that room and seeing His wounds with their own eyes.

8. According to verse 29, what blessing does Jesus speak over believers who have not seen Him physically?

9. Can faith be real while some of our questions remain unanswered? Why?

10. What is one area where people today may be tempted to say, "Unless God shows me exactly what He is doing, I cannot trust Him"?

A Question Worth Sitting With

What if the question that troubles me most is not the end of my faith, but the place where Christ is inviting me to know Him more deeply?

Personal Application

11. What question are you carrying today that you need to bring honestly before God?

12. If God does not answer that question in the way or timing you hope, what would trusting Jesus look like?

Bring It Home

Thomas teaches us something important: questions do not have to be the enemy of faith. But neither are questions the finish line. Thomas brought his struggle into the presence of the risen Christ, and his story moved from "I will not believe" to "My Lord and my God."

Faith is not having every question answered.

Faith is knowing whom you will trust when the answers do not come.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You that You are not afraid of our questions. Help us to bring them honestly to You rather than allowing them to pull us away from You. When we understand, teach us to trust You. When we do not understand, teach us to trust You still. Take our questions, our hurts, our fears, and our uncertainty, and use them to draw us closer to You. May our hearts, like Thomas, come to the place where we can say with confidence, "My Lord and my God." Amen.

Notes
