

# THE GOSPEL *of* JOHN

## CHAPTER 20:19-31

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“DEFEATING DOUBT!”**

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

**John 1:12**

**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:**

TOPICAL SUBJECT SEARCH KEYWORDS:

**Apologetics, Resurrection, Reasons, Doubts**

**INTRODUCTION**

*to the text*

*John 20:19-31*

## DEFEATING DOUBT

### The Summation Sentence

*Charles Haddon Spurgeon, The Great English Preacher of the 1800's said that when we as Christians exercise Doubt, we are doing nothing less than having Faith in the Devil's lies...*

**He said;**

**“Doubt is Having Faith in the Devil”**

Be Encouraged today, Every Christian is tempted by Doubt and every Christian is vulnerable to it, whenever we decided to stand for Jesus or not

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

## DEFEATING DOUBT

### 1.) Comes By Investigation

vv. 19-23

19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, **Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."** 20 Now when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, **"Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."** 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, (who?) and said to them, **"Receive ye the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."**

### a.) By Increasing Faith

v.19

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, **Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."**

**- Doubt will cause us to fear & Choke Out Faith**

**It's Still Resurrection Sunday Morning  
The Doors are Closed Tight - for fear of the Jews!**

There is No Doubt  
That by now there is a great noise and hassle throughout the streets of Jerusalem

Looking for the Dead Body of Jesus Christ  
(find the dead body of Jesus Christ and you destroy Christianity)

## Verse 19

Jesus came and stood in the midst,  
and said to them, "**Peace be with you.**"

### Defining Doubt

It is not unbelief. It is not rejection.

To doubt is to admit that there may be reasonable  
cause to believe.

That reasonable cause may not have yet registered  
with you

It may be resisted by you

It may be that you think that you don't possess  
enough information

### It is a debilitating fear of not being in control

(it is deeply associated with unbelief)

- Indecision
- Distrust
- Hesitation
- Timidity

Mark 9:23-25

23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

### To Defeat That Doubt

You must put yourself in the place of dependent faith

*...is it uncomfortable? – Yes!*

*...is it challenging? – Yes!*

*...is it impossible? – Yes!*

## Sign Up for Something Impossible

Philippians 4:13 NKJV  
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Mark 9:23  
23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Hebrews 11:6  
6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

## DEFEATING DOUBT *Comes By Investigation*

### **b.) By a Confirmed Reality**

**v.20-21**

Now when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, "**Peace to you!**"

### **c.) By Genuine Outcome**

**v.21-23**

As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, (who?), and said to them, "**Receive ye the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.**"

**When doubt is answered there's a  
conversation of the mind**

*Resulting in a change of attitude, that new attitude  
genders new hope, that new hope brings new vision,  
and new vision gives birth to Godly passion*

**Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them**

If Jesus would only stand right here in the midst of us...  
I'd believe!

Something better, far better is available to  
you my friend  
Not localized, but internalized!

Thomas is a type of the believer here.  
Without being where the action is - he missed out.  
Many Christians are what I call "Protectionist" or  
"Isolationist". They think by not going they're escaping  
some horrible ministry opportunity

That is not Doubt - That is Being Stupid!

Acts 1:4-5

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

**"Receive ye the Holy Spirit.**

**They Needed to be Born again**

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**John 14:16+**

**Luke 11:13+**

**John 7:37+**

**Acts 11:17+**

**Acts 19:2+**

**Acts 5:32+**

**Acts 2:36-41**

**By Asking, believing, obeying, repenting**

John 20:22

Mark 16:9-14

## DEFEATING DOUBT

### **2.) *Requires a Willing Mind***

**vv. 24-25**

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see (#1) - in His hands the print of the nails, and (#2) - put my finger into the print of the nails, and (#3) - put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

## DEFEATING DOUBT

### **a.) *Make the Truth Available***

**v.24**

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

### **b.) *Make the Truth Personal***

**v.25a**

The other disciples therefore said to him, "  
We have seen the Lord."

### **Thomas Could Care less About What They Had Seen**

### **c.) *Three Personal Truths That We Must Have***

**v.25b**

So he said to them, "Unless I see (#1) - in His hands the print of the nails, and (#2) - put my finger into the print of the nails, and (#3) - put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

(#1)

"Unless I see - in His hands the print of the nails,  
**I will not believe.**"

(#2)

"Unless I put - my finger into the print of the nails,  
**I will not believe."**

(#3)

"Unless I see - put my hand into His side,  
**I will not believe."**

## To One Degree or Another

We all require what Thomas is here Requiring

"God's Direction? - God's Mate for You?  
What About God's Ministry for You?"

What Thomas is saying is  
I will give you all my worship, I will give you all my praise  
I will dedicate all that I am if all that you said has been fulfilled

## DEFEATING DOUBT

### 3.) ***Demands Our Attention***

**vv. 26-29**

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus therefore came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "**Peace to you!**" 27 Then He said to Thomas, "**Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.**" 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. - Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

This is One of The Greatest Declarations of  
Worship Known in all of scripture!  
*It is this statement of Thomas' that the cults  
attack with an ignorant zeal*

# ISAIAH 48:12

## DEFEATING DOUBT *Demands Our Attention*

### **a.) *That Means Being Where The Action Is***

**v.26-27**

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus therefore came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "**Peace to you!**" 27 Then He said to Thomas, "**Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.**"

### **b.) *Knowing What We Believe***

**v.28-29**

And Thomas answered and said to Him, "**My Lord and my God!**" 29 Jesus said to him, "**Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. - Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.**"

All because Thomas is now present  
Life changing things are beginning to happen in his life

"My Lord GRK kurios (koo'-ree-os)  
THE supreme Authority but here Thomas declares  
(THE Supreme Authority, is MY Supreme Authority)

My God!" GRK theos (teh'-os)  
The Supreme Divinity but here Thomas declares  
(THE Supreme Authority, is MY Supreme Authority)

## Better is this Thomas;

What I Have Said is Better Than What You Can See. Because what you can see could very well trick you Thomas - better to listen and learn than to see and burn...



# DEFEATING DOUBT

## 4.) *By Giving Yourself to the Living God*

*vv. 30-31*

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 **but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**

## Will You Allow Me This Liberty?

And truly Jesus does many other signs in the presence of His disciples,  
which are not written in this book...

# DEFEATING DOUBT

Romans 10:8-15

8 for what does scriptures say? "The word is near you, it's in your mouth, it's in your heart" (it is, the word of faith which we have preached): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and righteousness is then given, and with the mouth confession is made and salvation is received. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Jesus Christ will not be put to shame." 12 Because there is no dividing line anymore between Jews and Non-Jews, for the same Lord, is Lord over all, and is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved." 14 So how then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not previously believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard about? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless someone is sent?