PCC

Pastor Mark Ambrose
September 1, 2024

Series: Gospel of John
Text: John 20:24-31

The Doubter

"How God Draws People to Himself - Part 3"

1. He's Patient with the Process vv. 24-27a

2. At Some Point There Will be Accountability vv. 27b-31

Grow Group Discussion Questions

A grow group is 8-16 people who get together weekly to study God's word and the previous Sunday's message. There is a time of discussion, support, encouragement, and learning how the message applies to daily life. ***PCC uses the ESV (English Standard Version).***

HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?
To learn more or join a group, visit **pacificcoastchurch.org/gg/** or sign up at the patio Info Kiosk.

Point #1
a) Read John 20:24-27a. Why do you think Thomas wouldn't believe the disciples testimony about the resurrection?
b) What were his conditions for believing? How did Jesus respond? What does this highlight about Point #1?
c) Why is this important to remember when sharing with skeptical people? How does this personally encourage you?

Point #2
a) Read John 20:27b-31. How did Jesus' response hold Thomas accountable for his conditions to believe?
b) Why is Point #2 important to understand when interacting with doubters and skeptics? (i.e., seeking vs. making excuses)
c) In what way will faith always be a part of becoming a Christian? How has this been true in your life? Be specific.

Daily Devotions

These are provided for mid-week personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's word and today's message.
A downloadable PDF of this document is also available each week at **pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons**.

MONDAY // Read John 20:24-25, 3-8, 14:1-6
- When you compare the response of Thomas with John ("other disciple") to the resurrection, what do you see?
- How was this side of Thomas also expressed in John 14:1-6? What does this reveal about certain people?
- Why is this important to understand when sharing your faith with non-Christians? How does this help you?

TUESDAY // Read John 20:24-27a, Matthew 9:35-38
- What did Thomas require in order to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead? Be specific.
- Why do you think he didn't believe the others' testimony? How might trauma have had something to do with it?
- How did Jesus respond? In what way does this encourage you with doubters in your life? Pray for them by name.

WEDNESDAY // Read John 20:24-27a, 2 Peter 3:8-9
- Given Thomas was struggling with doubt and fear, when did Jesus respond to his conditions to believe?
- Why do you think Jesus took so long? Be specific. What does this highlight about God's timing and our timing?
- In what way can you struggle with God's timing? How does this truth help you trust God and not lose hope?

THURSDAY // Read John 20:27b-29, 15:20
- What did Jesus say to Thomas after He met his conditions to touch and see? How did this hold him accountable?
- Why is this important to understand when it comes to skeptical people? (i.e., true seekers vs. making excuses)
- In what way did Thomas reveal a seeking heart? How can you protect yourself from the skeptical cycle of excuses?

FRIDAY // Read John 20:27b-29, 5:24, Romans 10:14-17
- How did Thomas respond to Jesus showing him His hands and side? How was this a confession of belief?
- Given that Jesus isn't physically here today, what will be required for unbelievers to believe?
- Why will believers today be more "blessed" than Thomas? What does this highlight about a skeptical heart?

SATURDAY // Read John 20:30-31, 3:36, Hebrews 11:1, 6
- Why do you think John let his readers know that he didn't write down all the signs Jesus gave His disciples?
- What does this imply about enough is enough? What does this also imply about the need for proof vs. faith?
- How would you respond to someone who needs more and more proof to believe? How does this adjust you?

MEDITATION VERSE: *[24]Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.* *John 5:24*