



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - April 15, 2012

Sermon

The Resurrection

Appearances of Jesus:

"Doubting Thomas' Second Chance"

John 20:19-31

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember about this sermon...

Monday 4/16/12

John 20:19

Jesus appears here to the disciples who were hiding for fear of the Jews. In fact, John records that the doors were shut. Suddenly, seemingly out of nowhere, Jesus came and stood in their midst. And then he talks! Jesus is supposed to be dead. He was just crucified a few days ago. And here he is, standing before the disciples and talking with them! How would you have felt if you were one of these disciples?

Tuesday 4/17/12

John 20:20-23

Jesus was standing in the midst of the disciples and talking to them, but they apparently did not know or believe who he claimed to be to them. Then he showed them the wounds on his hands and his side, which were the wounds afflicted on the day of his crucifixion. John says, "the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord," indicating that now they knew and believed it actually was Jesus! What "proof" do you need to believe in Jesus?

Wednesday 4/18/12

John 20:24-25

Thomas was not with these disciples when Jesus appeared to them. So the others told Thomas what had happened and what they had seen. But Thomas was persistent in his unbelief, stating that unless he put his finger into the prints of the nails and the side of Jesus, he would refuse to believe. Thomas was adamant about this. Many people state their unbelief and remain stubborn. Do you? What will it take for you to believe? Is seeing enough or, like Thomas, do you prefer more physical proof. Thomas probably felt a little disappointed and even cheated that he was not there with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them. Now, he demanded proof. Do you ever find yourself identifying with the feelings of Thomas? In what ways?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

What do you think Thomas felt about the label "Doubting Thomas?"

Are you like Thomas in any way?

Did Thomas have any faith before his second chance?

Do you believe Christ offers second chances to us, too?

Thursday 4/19/12
John 20:26-27

It was 8 days later when Jesus appeared to the disciples again. For Thomas, this must have felt like an eternity! But this time, 8 days later, when Jesus appeared to the disciples, Thomas was there! Again, the doors were shut and he greeted the disciples. Then he looked at Thomas and invited Thomas to reach out and touch his wounds. Then he added, "do not be unbelieving, but believing." The scriptures do not tell us if Thomas actually touched Jesus' wounds or not, but he did believe! We need to stop doubting, too. How can we stop doubting?

Friday 4/20/12
John 20:28-29

Thomas' reaction toward Jesus was one of exclamation: "My Lord and my God!" Obviously Thomas did believe now! Then Jesus said something to Thomas, which I believe is directed toward us when he said, "because you have seen me you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed." Many of us think or were told that "seeing is believing." But this is not necessarily true. Faith is needed and required by you and me.

Saturday 4/21/12
John 20:30-31

John records in this passage that Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples--more than are recorded in John's gospel. But John states, "But these are written so that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you might have life in his name." This is the gospel in a nutshell. John wants his readers to believe in Jesus! And the benefit of believing is having new life in Jesus' name! Believe!