

## **Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith**

### **December 17, 2023**

**John 20:19-22; 24**, *“So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.”<sup>20</sup> And when Jesus had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.<sup>21</sup> So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”<sup>22</sup> And when Jesus had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.<sup>24</sup> But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.”*

**John 20:25**, *“The other disciples were saying to Thomas, “We have seen the Lord!” But Thomas said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”*

**John 20:26-29**, *“After eight days Jesus’ disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.”<sup>27</sup> Then Jesus said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.”<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”*

**Mark 3:13-19**, *“Jesus went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him.<sup>14</sup> And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach,<sup>15</sup> and to have authority to cast out the demons.<sup>16</sup> And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter),<sup>17</sup> and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, “Sons of Thunder”);<sup>18</sup> and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot;<sup>19</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.”*

**Invitation (summoned):** an often formal request to be present or participate

**John 11:8;14-16,** *“<sup>8</sup> The disciples said to Jesus, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?” <sup>14</sup> So Jesus then said to the disciples plainly, “Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.” <sup>16</sup> Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, so that we may die with Jesus.”*

**John 14:2-6,** *“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Jesus, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*

**1 Timothy 1:1,** *“Christ Jesus is our hope.”*

### **Unbelief:**

1. apostasy, turning away from God, falling away from faith and grace
2. unconverted, refusing to believe God is who He says He is, refusing to believe that Jesus is who He says He is, refusing to believe the Bible is God’s inspired Word
3. not believing a current event