



SERIES: November – December – Walking with Jesus

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Friday, 12/31/2021

Scripture: John 20:24-31

TITLE: Borrowing the Faith

When my kids were small, they were afraid of going into the basement. They could be afraid of their own rooms upstairs if the hallway and rooms were dark. They would send me out for reconnaissance to ensure it was safe. After a careful examination of the area, I could report with confidence no monsters were present. My testimony was enough for their own faith. They borrowed my faith because it was well placed.

We are doing the same thing today with Jesus Christ. Did you know that? It's true. Let's watch a familiar scene from John 20:24-31 (CSB).

But Thomas one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were telling him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "If I don't see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe."

A week later his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don't be faithless, but believe."

Thomas responded to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in his name.

What always gets me about this story is what we call it. We call it the story of doubting Thomas. That's Thomas' reputation. A doubter. But he was no habitual doubter. He was brash but a doubter; I'm not so sure. Remember in John 11 that it was Thomas who said, "Let's go and die with Jesus." Thomas was sure of who Jesus was. But like many of us, when faced with extraordinary trouble, we too can doubt. And so, we need to borrow the faith of others.

That's why John wrote this gospel. He said so in verse 31. "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Son of God."

The Bible is not a book of fiction. It's not a book of fantasy. It's a book of history. It is miraculous. But it's true from cover to cover. It's a love letter from God to us. It lets us know how to experience a relationship with God through this Jesus. That's why we've walked with Him for the past two months. It's so we can borrow the faith of others. We are borrowing their faith based on eye-witness testimony, so we might believe.

It's okay if you doubt. Thomas doubted. Peter doubted. Moses doubted. We all doubt. That's why the Bible was written so borrow other's faith so we might believe.

And that's my challenge for you today: to borrow and share the faith. Do you doubt? Me too. I'm sure, but I doubt. That's why I walk with Jesus. That's why I go back to the Bible. I need to borrow the faith. But I don't just borrow. I share it with others.

What story do you need to hear today? What story do you need to share today? Borrow and share today. These words were written so you might believe. I do. Do you?