



SERIES: John Believe
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Friday, May 19, 2023
Scripture: John 20:26-29
TITLE: Belief or Disbelief?

What event have you witnessed that you struggled to believe? For example, the moon landing. I can't imagine both the awe and disbelief the day a man walked on the moon. Or, for me, I remember disbelieving the news reports on 9/11. No way could a terrorist attack happen the way it did and to the level it did. Despite the doubt, both events happened. There is ample proof to confirm them.

In John 20:24-25, Thomas does not believe the claim that Jesus rose from the dead. And I can't blame him. That kind of thing doesn't happen. So he asks for the proof.

But did he ever get the proof he desired? Let's continue the story in John 20:26-29.

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although 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 see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Thomas doubted. But that shouldn't be his reputation. He was willing to die with Jesus twice, as recorded in the Book of John. So, like any of us and all the disciples, they didn't believe the initial claim of resurrection.

And he had to wait for that proof. John writes, "Eight days later." Here they were, back inside with the door locked. But this time, Thomas is with them. And this time, they get a visitor. It's Jesus. He comes again the same way. He simply appears, confirming His glorified body. And then He says, "Peace be with you." And knowing Thomas is there and knowing his desire, He says, "Touch me. See, it is really me, Thomas. Don't disbelieve, but believe."

So, Thomas does. He wanted evidence. He received it. And what's his response? "My Lord and my God!" He believed. He confirms His belief in the resurrection and Jesus' deity.

Many people today can conclude that the best explanation for the disciples' claim to see a risen Christ is that the evidence supports such a claim. Yet people reject the evidence. People can look at the evidence for God by looking at creation, the design of the universe, the moral law, and other evidence, and yet they do not believe.

Both the apostles and we are blessed when we believe in Jesus and the evidence for Him. But as Jesus said, "[Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed](#)" (John 20:29).

There is no doubt it takes faith to believe in the resurrection of Jesus. But I think it takes greater faith to believe that the universe always existed, or humans are the result of time plus matter plus chance.

Jesus does not desire us to disbelieve but to believe.

What doubts or questions do you have about Jesus, God, the Bible, or anything in between? Put them in the comments below. We'd love to find the answers for you as you seek to be like believing Thomas.

When we pursue truth, no matter where it leads, we will win the day.