



VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH SUGAR GROVE CAMPUS

Thomas: Moving Beyond Your Doubts to Devotion

FOLLOW ME: THE STORY OF DISCIPLESHIP

John 20:19–31

Tim Badal | June 11, 2023



He couldn't believe what his wife Leslie was telling him. "I have come to follow Jesus," she said. Lee's thoughts were, "Jesus? We never believed in him. Church? We never went to church. The Bible? That's a group of fairy tales and stories, Leslie, that we know aren't true." Their discussion turned into a debate. The debate into a dialog. The dialog into an argument and fight. Lee couldn't believe his ears. "Leslie, we have walked this road together, but now you have fallen for this notion, this fable, that Jesus is God, that He's our savior, that we need Him to save us from our sins?" Lee knew this wasn't true.

As an investigative journalist for the *Chicago Tribune* newspaper, he knew how to seek out the truth. He knew how to find the evidence that would tell his wife this fool's errand she was on needed to come to an end. For the next year, Lee used all his investigative journalist skills, looking far and wide, seeking to disprove and bring doubt back into the mind of his wife. But even more than that, he had told his bosses at the newspaper, "There are a lot of people like my wife, giving themselves to this thing called Christianity, and I want to prove without a shadow of a doubt that their claims are wrong." So talking with the world's greatest skeptics, the world's greatest atheists and agnostics, Lee went on a journey, only to reach the end of his journey when he found Jesus.

The story of Lee Strobel, the writer for the *Chicago Tribune* is told in his book *The Case for Christ*. It tells the story of how a skeptic and doubter—a non-believer—turned in utter devotion to God and Jesus Christ his savior. Lee wrote other books, including *The Case for Faith* and *The Case for Easter*. He wrote to doubters and skeptics alike and sold millions of copies. Today he proclaims the message that he once doubted, and Lee and Leslie now serve the God whom they believe with complete devotion.

Lee's story is the story of many others who move from doubt to devotion. But can we say this storyline did not begin with Lee? He wasn't the first doubter to become devoted in his following of Jesus Christ. Maybe that title goes to the next disciple we're going to look at in our study under the heading, "Follow Me." This summer, you and I are going on this journey where we'll be introduced—or maybe re-introduced—to the first followers of Jesus. There were 12 of them. Last week we learned about Peter; today we're going to learn about Thomas. He's in that second group of disciples; the first being Peter, James, John and Andrew, the closest companions of Jesus, the ones the Bible dedicates the most attention to.

Then there's the second group of disciples that included Judas, Thomas, and a couple others. Today we come to the life and times of Thomas. As we did last week and as we will throughout this series, we'll examine the lives of these disciples, because they serve as examples for us. We want to emulate the good they did, because they were transformed by Jesus. We want to be transformed as well and live as they did.

Thomas, however, is best known for his mistake. How would you feel if the main thing people knew about you was your one big mistake, the one time when you stepped up to the plate and struck out? Thomas is known for his doubt. In fact, we sometimes

called someone who doubts, “Doubting Thomas.” Many of them don’t even know where that comes from. They know nothing about the Scripture we’ll look at today in John 20. But Thomas has become synonymous with doubting because he doubted at what seems to be the worst possible time.

As we look at the life of Thomas, we’ll be considering this matter of doubt. So let’s start by defining the word. Doubt is the sentiment behind words like “how?” or “why?” It’s been defined as “an uncertain wavering in belief and conviction.” It’s a lack of certainty. Some of you may find yourself there this morning. You’re struggling with conviction and wavering in your belief about many things. You lack the conviction you desire. Today we’ll see a man who lacked that conviction, then found it through the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

Doubt leads to something else, but many times we make these things synonymous. When doubt is left to incubate—to bake in the oven if you will—it leads to disbelief. Doubt and disbelief are different. Doubt is uncertainty, while disbelief is the deliberate denial of and resistance to a truth, leading to disobedience and rebellion. Disbelief is always condemned in the Bible, but there’s an allowance for living a short time with doubt.

It’s good to ask questions. God likes it when we ask questions, when we say, “I’m not sure.” The Bible also says in the book of James that if we lack wisdom, we should ask God, Who gives it generously without finding fault. As we ask, we should not continue to doubt. James describes doubt as like being tossed to and fro by waves. Doubt means to vacillate between two opinions: what we know to be true and what we are tempted to believe might not be true. In fact, we all have issues of doubt. One writer put it this way: “Don’t give us your doubts; give us your certainties, for we have doubts enough of our own.”

Where do we doubt?

Today I want to give you a certainty that hopefully will cause your doubts to disappear. Maybe you’ll find yourself living in one of these places.

We doubt our feelings.

Maybe there’s a couple here who are dating. They’re wondering, maybe quietly, maybe together, is this for real? Is this going to be forever? Maybe one of you is doubting something about the other. Or maybe you’re in a relationship and you’re doubting. Do we really feel this way? Is this true?

We doubt our families.

Parents doubt. “Are our kids ever going to figure it out? Will they always be immature or will they move into maturity?” There are some who are in marriages who are doubting whether their marriage will last, because of something the other has done. There are lots of doubts surrounding our families.

We doubt the future.

Probably the place where we doubt the most is the future. The Bible says, “No man knows what a day might bring” (Ecclesiastes 10:14; Matthew 24:36). Is tomorrow going to be better than today? What if this happens? What if that happens? We doubt the future.

We doubt our finances.

Doubting comes when we talk about money. Will I have enough? Will there be enough to retire? What if this happens or that happens? Will my money be enough? Some of you are looking at your bank account and doubting you’ll make it to the next paycheck. There are a lot of doubts in our world.

Doubt also has some kissing cousins. Maybe you’re saying, “I don’t think I doubt much. Well, let me ask you this: do you worry? Are you anxious? Anxiety and worry come on the heels of doubts. We doubt in the moment. We worry and are anxious from that point on. So if you find yourself worrying and being anxious, I want you to ask yourself, “What am I doubting about God and His Word? As a Christ follower, what am I doubting about His promises that cause me to doubt a great many things?”

Not all doubt is bad. You will see in your email at some point that a prince from Africa is asking for money. Just wire \$1,000 so he can start this diamond mine, where the diamonds are plentiful. Once he gets your \$1,000, he will return that money a hundredfold to you. Right away, you think, “Here’s my routing number. Here’s my bank account number.” No. Doubt says, “Can I trust this?”

Doubt is an alarm that protects you against schemes. But you can be tempted to let that alarm go off when it shouldn't, especially when it comes to God and His Word.

It's okay at times to doubt untrustworthy people; it's not alright to doubt a trustworthy God. This is what we see in our Scripture this morning. We need to grow in our trust and our fight against doubt when it comes to our faith. That's where we have to be most careful.

The Bible is clear that Thomas doubted and we'll deal with that, too. Thomas wasn't the only doubter. Martin Luther, the reformer, and John Calvin, his contemporary, both struggled with doubt. Great preachers like D.L. Moody and Charles Haddon Spurgeon both wrote in their journals and in dialogs with people that they had doubts about their faith from time to time. The great missionary David Livingston had doubts about his effectiveness and even his calling at times, as he served in far flung places throughout the world.

So we all come to moments when we doubt. What we have to ask is this: is my doubt turning to disbelief and is my disbelief turning to rebellion against God? To answer that question, we need to understand this disciple Thomas. So let's begin by developing a relationship with a disciple who doubted. Let's get to know this guy.

We actually know very little about Thomas. We don't know where he was born. We don't know how old he was when he started following Jesus. We don't know about his mom or dad, But here's what we do know. We know that Thomas was called Didymus. That means he was a twin. He was born the same day as a sibling. We don't know if they were identical. There was another one who looked very much like him. There was another one who shared his birthday.

As we look at the Scriptures, we will see a character sketch starting to form. We wonder what kind of guy he was. Remember last week we used words like "impetuous" and "impulsive" to describe Peter. He was a strong leader. He wasn't afraid to do things. But that was not Thomas. Thomas is more of a melancholy. He's more gloomy. I told the first two services that there's not a better day in June to preach on Thomas. It's gloomy and dark, kind of rainy. Not completely rainy; just enough to get wet. That's Thomas. He's a guy who sees the glass half-empty. While the Tims and Peters of the world today exaggerate and are far too optimistic, Thomases are realists. Modern-day Thomases would say, "We're just being real. We're realists."

Maybe this will help you understand. In the story of Winnie the Pooh, Thomas is not Tigger; that's who we learned about last week. Thomas is Eeyore. Eeyore talked low and slow, like this, "Oh, Winnie." Thomas talked to Jesus like this, "Oh, Jesus. I'm not sure, guys." Some of you are Eeyores. Some of you are married to Eeyores. Some of you have Eeyores as children. Some of you have Eeyores as parents. Some of you are going to go to work tomorrow for an Eeyore. That's not bad; it's different. Here's why we know it's not bad. Because Jesus chose Eeyore—Thomas Didymus—to be one of His followers. He couldn't have been that bad. God was going to do a work in him and God wants to do a work in some of our melancholic, glass-half-empty type people.

As we do a little more study, there are a couple more things we need to know about Thomas. He's a fisherman. Most commentaries believe he was a fisherman because he was most connected to the group of disciples who were fishermen. Then in John 21:1-3, Peter says, "I'm going back to my job. I'm going back to fishing." Then it lists all the guys who go back to fishing and Thomas was one of them.

Also, he was a follower of Jesus Christ. Luke 6:13-16 names Thomas as one of the 12. But he's more than simply listed as one of the 12; this guy is a devoted follower of Jesus. In John 11, we read about Lazarus, the friend of Jesus, being sick then dying. After four days of hearing Jesus say, "No, we're not going to go. This sickness will not end in death," the disciples now hear that Lazarus was indeed dead. Jesus then says, "Now is the time to go to Bethany to be with Mary, Martha and the rest of Lazarus' family."

If you read chapters seven through ten in John and now into chapter 11, there was great fighting going on. The religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus. So no doubt there was talk among the disciples where they said, "Jesus, this might not be the best time to go there. Things are pretty hot in the area around Jerusalem, including Bethany. Let's stay away for a little longer." But as we read in John 11:16, Thomas says in his Eeyore voice, *"Let us also go, that we may die with him."* He's the realist. But you might be thinking, "That's kind of a fatalistic, defeatist approach." But I would note that Thomas is also being resolute: "Let's go. I'm willing to die with You, Jesus." So what we know is that Thomas is a fisherman, a follower of Jesus, a melancholy Eeyore, but he's a disciple who's also focused on finding the answers.

In John 14, Jesus is now closer to going to the cross. On the night before He was betrayed, He says this in verses one to three: *"Believe in God; believe also in me...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."* Then Jesus says in verse four, *"And you know the way to where I am going."* The

disciples all go, "Yeah, we know, Jesus. We're right there with You. We know exactly where You're going." But it's Thomas who says, "No, Jesus. I don't know why these knuckleheads keep nodding their heads. I don't know where You're going. How can I go there if I don't know where it is?" Jesus then says, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

It's Thomas' honest question, seeking to understand, that brings us one of the most promising and wonderful verses in the Bible. Here's this melancholic pessimist, this fisherman follower of Jesus, glass-half-empty, fatalistic, maybe more realistic guy who is focused on finding that answer. When it finally dawns on him that Jesus is all He says He is, Thomas goes farther than any other disciple in the rest of his life.

After Jesus ascends to heaven, Thomas headed out east on his missionary journey. He went through Iraq and Iran, then made it all the way to the nation of India. For 40 years—for an entire generation after Christ is gone—Thomas devoted himself to the proclamation of the gospel to an entire country. This is what writers say about him:

Thomas, who had so fervently proclaimed his unbelief, carried the Christian message of love and forgiveness to the ends of the earth in his generation. More specifically, it was to a land of dark people that he was sent, to clothe them by baptism in white robes. His grateful dawn dispelled India's painful darkness. It was Thomas' mission to espouse India to the one begotten, that is, Jesus.

The merchant, the individual who isn't from India, who shows up in India, is blessed for having so great a treasure. Odessa thus became the blessed city by possessing the greatest pearl India could yield. Thomas works miracles in India, and at Odessa. Thomas is destined to baptize peoples perverse and steeped in darkness, and that in the land of India.

That was written 300 years later by a guy named St. Ephraim. Here's the storyline. Thomas goes to India, preaches and a revival breaks out in the city of Odessa. This revival is so strong, the preaching of Thomas is so pervasive in India, that when the British come to colonize India hundreds of years later, thinking they were bringing Christianity to this dark world of India, they find a church named after Thomas. They're thinking, "Wait a minute. How are you guys Christians? We're the first Christians to come here." But they were told, "No. Generations ago, one of the disciples of Jesus came and preached Christ to us and we've been believers ever since." God changed this man and used this man.

We want to look at the examples of these disciples and we want to see Christ's transforming power in them. There are some Eeyores and pessimists and Thomases who are doubting right now, but God wants to turn your doubt into great devotion. To do so, we need to learn from Thomas' example, and we need to defend ourselves against the risk of the downward spiral of doubt.

Now did I read John 20 to you guys? No? Okay. Let's read John 20 then, starting in verse 19:

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Then, as if there's a teachable moment, the apostle John writes this to end the chapter:

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Now that we know about the Thomas who doubted, we'll see in this passage how we can defend ourselves against the risks that surround the downward spiral of doubt. Where did Thomas go wrong? What warning signs were there that we should be taking notice of so we won't go the way of Thomas in doubt and disbelief?

Desertion

Doubt begins by desertion. Thomas is not the only doubter in the mix. All of the other disciples, including Peter, doubted the veracity—the truthfulness—of Jesus' claims. Jesus had declared to all 12, "I'm going to go to the cross, I'm going to die for the sins of mankind, then I'm going to go to the grave and on the third day I'll be raised from the dead." He said it in different ways and at different times. All the disciples said they believed Him.

Then Jesus was arrested, tried and beaten within an inch of His life. He was taken to Calvary where He was put on a cross, then over the next few hours He died a slow and agonizing death. As each of these things took place, the disciples grew deeper and deeper into their doubts. They were tempted to disbelieve all He had told them.

Friends, doubt happens in our lives, especially regarding our faith, when we allow present circumstances to upstage biblical truth. If you're struggling with doubt and thinking, "How is this happening?" you're allowing your present circumstances to upstage biblical truth. Truth is back there, present circumstances are here. So you're seeing and hearing your present circumstances, yet there's a faint voice to remind you what Jesus said. It's your present moment that is amplified.

The disciples were seeing and hearing all that was happening around them in that moment and the earlier words of Jesus were drowned out. Because of that, their doubt caused them to run.

Doubt will cause you to desert the One Who has promised you so many good things because your present circumstances are pushing you away from Christ.

Now it seems that Thomas was gone longer than the others. Jesus appears on Easter Sunday night to only ten disciples. Absent were Judas who had ended his life. And absent Thomas. We don't know why he was not there. He might have been out doing a grocery run. He might have been on the lookout to see where the Roman soldiers were. He could have been out preaching. It doesn't seem like that would be the case, but we aren't told why he's not there. So we'll give him the benefit of the doubt that he's doing something good. Or maybe it was because he was such a pessimist, because he was such a melancholy Eeyore, he just wanted to be alone.

How many of you, when you're filled with doubts, don't want to be around anybody? You just want to be alone. "I want to sulk. I want to lament. I don't want anybody else around."

Can I tell you something that I think is really important? You are combatting doubt right now where you're seated. Did you know that? You made a decision this morning, "I'm going to go to God's house. I'm going to be with God's people, whether or not they're going to sing God's songs, pray God's prayers, listen to God's Word being preached. In doing so, the book of Hebrews says that when we gather together, we spur one another on to love and good deeds. Literally the word is we "agitate" one another.

I was telling one of my employees at a catered barbecue last week, "We need to rake the coals." That word in Hebrews is literally what we do. We take a rake and agitate the coals. Why? Because as the coals burn, the dust of the once-burning embers is covering the flame. We want to get as much fire out of the coals as we can, so we agitate the coals.

Brothers and sisters, we show up to church to agitate in one another the doubts and dust this world has brought on us over the past week. If you go a week without it, you might think, "It's just a week." But a little more dust just got on you. Then you go another week and there's more dust. Before you know it, if you don't agitate it at all, the heat from the coals is gone, because the dust has shrouded it. So coming to church and being with God's people, being in small groups, participating where God's Word is being preached and God's songs are being sung and God's prayers are being prayed is stirring us up.

If you want to evaluate the church, do this as you're leaving. Ask yourself, "Do I have more doubts about Christ and my walk with Him when I'm leaving this place or fewer?" Part of the reason I preach with this kind of passion, with this kind of excitement, is to agitate, to uproot, the doubts in your mind.

I've spent a week focusing in on this text and have come to realize afresh that Jesus is altogether trustworthy. Why would we doubt Him? I proclaim this as if my hair's on fire, hoping you do the same, hoping you believe the same way. When you hear the Word preached, as you see the examples of the disciples and you see the transforming work of Christ, I hope you will say, "I believe that Jesus is my Lord. He is my God. So I can stand with conviction when the doubts from the world come against me."

Don't desert the assembling together. Thomas did, and for eight days he languished in his doubts.

Delay

Thomas delayed for eight days. I wonder if the disciples took turns in trying to convince Thomas of what they had seen: “We’ve seen Jesus. We’ve seen His hands. We’ve seen His side.” I wonder if there was a pot of money they were setting aside. I know disciples don’t gamble, okay? But maybe they said, “Whoever can convince Thomas gets this.”

I picture Andrew sitting down with Thomas, sharing a meal, but Thomas is all depressed and down. Everyone else is excited. They’ve seen Jesus. They had experienced the Holy Spirit. Things are going well. So Andrew sits down with Thomas and says, “I know Peter talked with you, but let’s be honest. Peter is an exaggerator. But Thomas, you know me. I’m even-keeled Andrew. At times I’m melancholy like you.” Maybe he put his arm around Thomas and said, “I’ve seen Jesus.” But for eight days, what we have is desertion, delay and denial.

Denial

Even after the closest followers of Jesus—Thomas’ closest associates—tell him that he can believe, notice in verse 25 that he says, “I won’t believe.” Listen, doubt isn’t inherently sinful, but be careful, it’s kind of like anger. You don’t know where the line is between righteous and unrighteous anger, because it happens so quickly. Because of worry and anxiety, doubt can move so quickly to disbelief that you might not even know it. Here in a matter of one verse, Thomas goes from doubt to disbelief. “I will not believe. I will not believe.”

So you wake up in the middle of the night and have an anxious thought, a worry, a doubt about the future, about your faith, about your family, about your finances. It’s okay. We’re finite and flawed people. We will have those moments of doubt. But then we need to replace that doubt with Scripture. God says in His Word, “I’ll provide for you. I’ll take care of you. I will never leave you or forsake you. You should even consider trials as being joy, because I’m going to use them for your good, making you more like My Son Jesus Christ.”

We hear that, but worry and anxiety flood our minds and what do we say? “I will not believe the promises and precepts of God. I will believe my doubts.” In that moment, my friends, we are saying, “I will not believe. I will not believe. I deny it.” Some of us right now are saying, “My doubts are totally not sinful.” I would say, “Be careful.” At some point God’s Word has been brought to bear in our lives and at some point we chose to believe our doubts instead of the declaration of Christ.

Demand

This will inevitably lead to a demand. Notice that Thomas tells the other disciples, as well as God because He’s there too, “Here are my demands. I want to see You. I want to touch You. I want You on my terms.” That’s what Thomas says when Jesus isn’t there.

Have you done this before? “Jesus, I’ll believe You if You do a miracle. Jesus, I’ll believe You if You get me out of this situation. Jesus, I’ll believe You if You show Yourself to me. Jesus, I’ll believe You if You fix all my problems.” There are the demands. They’re demands of disbelief.

God doesn’t need to do any of that. God says, “Are you kidding Me? I created the world. Don’t you see the world? I created you. Did you think you came out of nothing? I made you.” But we demand which leaves us in a very, very bad place. What can we do to change it? We have this example. We’ve seen where Thomas has gone awry.

Disarm

What do we do to fix it? We deepen our resolve to disarm the doubts of life. “I don’t want to live in doubt. I don’t want to live in disbelief.” If that’s the cry of your heart, then here’s what you can do. This is where we have to be.

Draw close to Christ.

Thomas’ doubts ended when Jesus came close. The closer you are to Jesus and His Word, those doubts will have a hard time getting oxygen. If you’re struggling with doubts, I don’t judge you, but I say this: get close to Jesus. When we’re close to Jesus, there’s a reverence through the Holy Spirit. As we draw near to Jesus, we permanently have what the disciples temporarily had—the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. As we draw near to Jesus, the Holy Spirit fills us with all these fruits of the Spirit, all these evidences

of the Spirit. As we are filled with the Holy Spirit, what we're not filled with is doubts and disbelief. As Thomas needed to do, we also need to draw near to Jesus.

And here's the amazing thing. Thomas didn't draw near to Jesus; Jesus drew near to him. Jesus showed up and got close to Thomas. Brothers and sisters, I want you to know, Jesus wants nothing more than to get close to you. Jesus showed up in front of Thomas, and notice, He didn't beat up Thomas.

For the doubters here today, God doesn't want to beat you up. He wants to get close to you. Like a loving parent, He wants to take away those doubts, take away that disbelief, and fill you with devotion and dedication to Him. So draw close to Him. And when Christ draws near to you, don't push Him away, but receive Him.

Depend on the demonstrations given to us.

What evidence did Thomas have that Jesus was Who He said He was? Let's go down the list. First, he had the teachings of Christ. Jesus had preached, "I am the Christ. I am the Messiah." He had proven it through His miracles that Thomas had seen with his own eyes. He had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. So Thomas knew firsthand that Jesus had the power of resurrection, but he still didn't believe. He had heard Christ preach. He had seen Christ do great miracles, and now he has the third demonstration, which is that his closest friends, who were just as downtrodden and disbelieving as he was, were saying, "We have seen the Christ." But he still said, "I won't believe."

Jesus had to stand right in front of him and Thomas had to touch Him. He had to feel the wounds. It was there that Thomas said, "I believe."

Declare your allegiance to Christ.

Many doubters will say, "If I could only touch Jesus. If I could only see Jesus with my own eyes. If I could only see the miracles. If I could only have heard Jesus preach, then I would be dedicated. Then I would be devoted."

But notice what John says Jesus says to Thomas in verse 29: *"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* Thomas sees Jesus, then his doubts and disbeliefs are finally dispelled, once and for all. Look what he declares in verse 28: *"My Lord and my God!"* Thomas is saying, "You are Who You say You are. You can do what You say You can do."

If we don't see Jesus for Who He is—God incarnate—then we will never bow down to Him as Lord. We will never commit our lives to Him. The only reason Thomas preached to those in India was that he knew without a shadow of a doubt Who he believed. He trusted and declared his allegiance to God in that, *"My Lord and my God!"*

Devote yourself to the Word of God.

So for the doubters in this place, you say, "Sure is nice for Thomas to have gotten all that. What am I supposed to do?" Notice the end of the chapter. *"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book, but these are written, so that you"—you and me, in our doubts and in our disbelief—"may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name."*

John is telling us this is all we need. This Book will take care of our doubts. If we will dedicate ourselves to what is written in this Book—the eternal words of Jesus Christ our Lord—the doubts will go away. We're more blessed than those who saw Him—we're more blessed than Thomas—because we have believed without seeing.

God is in this with us. He says, "If you will trust Me and if you will obey these words, then I will meet you in your doubts. I will meet you in your disbelief. I will lead you to a devotion that will change your life and will change the world around you."