



Let's Talk About Thomas | Doug Wekenman | Easter 2025

Weekly Study

SHARE

Welcome, Red Rocks, to the pinnacle of Holy Week, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is a day of rejoicing as a church, celebrating the risen King who stands at the center of history. Pastor Doug leads us into the final week, exploring the infamous story of the disciple known best as "Doubting Thomas," who, in reality, was simply honest in his questioning.

Often, we allow our intellect to conflict with our hearts regarding the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus because we did not witness it firsthand. Yet, the real question persists: Who is Jesus to you? With Jesus, all things become possible, including salvation through faith.

- ☐ **How has this entire series brought you back to the heart of the real reason we celebrate Easter weekend? Bring in vulnerability.**
- ☐ **How often do you find yourself doubting the love of God? Why do you think that is?**

GROW

Read John 20:24-28

These verses follow up with Thomas after Jesus revealed Himself to the disciples following His death and burial. Thomas struggled with the reality that Jesus had walked out of the tomb simply because he did not see it. He insisted on physically touching the wounds of Jesus in order to believe, and we all face the same honest doubt when it comes to who we say Jesus is in our lives.

Christianity is not blind faith, but it is built on the hinge of history, Jesus Christ. Often, our intellect creates an obstacle for the true story of His resurrection to reach our hearts, because today's world tells us we must see it to believe it. How many times have you found yourself doubting the goodness of God due to the anxiety in your heart?

- ☐ **What actionable steps can you take to shift your mindset when your intellect questions the reality of "Truth"?**

After Jesus places Thomas's hands on His wounds, we witness Thomas proclaiming, "My Lord and my God." This moment shows that this reality moved past his mind and emotions, reaching his heart, where it then bore fruit in his life and allowed him to truly live by faith. Doubt is often the evidence of growth, and we can embrace our questions and doubts while drawing closer to Jesus in our hearts.

Pastor Josh Howerton once said, "You can't fully know the love of God until you fully understand the death of God." We speak about the crucifixion and resurrection so often that it becomes routine, but we forget the gruesome reality of His death and the beautiful reality of His resurrection. Jesus said that He voluntarily gave His life for us. This is what we remember every Easter and the reason we can truly rejoice in His love. Our feelings are real, yet they aren't always true. What is true is the love of God and what He says about us.

- ☐ **What does it mean to fully understand the death of God? How does it make you feel to think about the details of all that Jesus went through for you?**
- ☐ **Do you hold the view, "I must see it to believe it"? Why is it difficult for you to believe what you weren't there to witness?**

MOVE

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

With the reminder of Resurrection Sunday entering first our minds and hearts, it is able to supernaturally flow into our lives. The entire reason Jesus willingly died for us was so that He could exit the tomb three days later and give us freedom from our grave of sin and shame. Paul, in the listed scripture, reminds us what he has passed on to us and what we are to pass on to others.

The Christian faith is built on layer upon layer of logic, faith, and reason, a faith we can stand on with confidence, knowing that His Word will not return to Him void when it goes into the world. Though those few days were dark and full of doubt, we now have the assurance that Jesus is alive and has changed the game forever. We can face the future with confidence when we turn our face to the One who is sitting at the right hand of God, because it is what He did for us this Sunday that we celebrate.

- ☐ **What convictions are brought upon your heart when you remember the fact that Jesus willingly died a criminal's death for you?**
- ☐ **Why do you find it difficult to accept God's love after hearing about the resurrection of Jesus?**

When Easter enters our lives, we find ourselves telling everyone around us about the One who changed everything in such a short amount of time. Like Thomas, we fall into grace without

apology as we fully believe in our hearts what happened two thousand years ago. Jesus didn't die and rise just to save us, He died and rose to also send us into the world to tell everyone else about the darkest yet greatest day in history. He is alive, and He is God.

Who is Jesus to you? We have the full knowledge of who the Bible says Jesus is, so what will you do with it? Although we cannot see nor feel the wounds of Jesus, we can still believe with our hearts that it is finished and allow that proclamation to enter our lives by producing fruit. You were made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, so next time doubt arises, embrace it and allow it to help you grow in the faith you cling to.

- ☐ **What steps do you need to take to live your life with the understanding that Jesus suffered and died to give you life to the fullest, and with that living your life to show others the risen King who died once for all?**

CHALLENGE: Write your doubts down for God throughout the week and reflect on why you have those doubts.

P R A Y

Take a moment to reflect on this message and its importance to us as Christians. Ask God to reveal any hidden doubts holding you back from stepping out in faith. Pray that He strengthens you with a faith so bold that your mind has no stronghold in dictating the truth of the Gospel. Confess to one another any doubts you may have in this season and how to pray for each other.

Share any and all prayer requests with the group. Take the time to pray for each request and remember that your small group is always there in the midst of your questions and doubts.