

EXPERIENCE easter

EASTER SUNDAY 2016
Overcoming My Doubts
John 20:24-28

Pastor Mark Hartman
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I. THE STORY OF THOMAS AND HIS DOUBTS.

- A. *John 20:24-28* “One of the disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. ²⁵ They told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.” ²⁶ Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!” ²⁸ “My Lord and my God!” (NLT)
- B. Thomas is the best example in the Bible of a person who didn’t believe but came to believe and it changed his life forever. Instead of doubting Thomas I think we should be calling him “Overcoming My Doubts” Thomas.
1. *John 20:26* “Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them and said, “Peace be with you!”
 2. *John 20:27* “Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

3. **John 20:28 “My Lord and my God!”**
4. **John 20:29 “Then, Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”**

C. The resurrected Jesus stands before Thomas and Thomas pushes away all his doubts and arguments and bows before the **risen** Lord.

II. WHAT IS THE **TURNING** POINT FOR DOUBTS?

Evidence That Demands a Verdict, Josh McDowell

The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus, Gary Habermas

A. The first most popular reason I have encountered for disbelief is **moral** lifestyle.

1. *“I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning. For myself, as well as most of my contemporaries, the philosophy of meaninglessness was a philosophy of liberation, and the liberation we sought was liberation from Christian morality.” —Alduous Huxley, *Ends and Means**
2. *“The evidence for Jesus’ resurrection is so strong that nobody would question it except for two things: First, it is a very unusual event. And second, if you believe it happened, you have to change the way you live.” —Wolfhart Pannenberg*
3. **John 7:7 “The world... hates Me because I testify about it that its **lifestyle** is evil...”**

B. The second most popular reason I have encountered for disbelief is about **suffering**.

1. *“I think that if, in fact, God Almighty appeared to me and gave me an explanation that could make sense... of the slaughter of innocent children, and the explanation was so overpowering that I actually could understand, then I’d be the first to fall on my knees in humble submission and admiration.”—Bart Ehrman*
2. *“The first thing I’ll do when I get to heaven with my new legs is drop to my glorified knees and worship Jesus who saved and changed me. And then I will do a backflip!” —Joni Eareckeson Tada*

C. *“Having started with the skeptical critics... I expected to discover that their arguments would be frighteningly strong, and that Christianity was, at heart, a kind of fraud... However, I discovered the opposite. I discovered that I was unconvinced by the wild postulations of those who claimed to be ‘children of the Enlightenment.’ Christianity (could*

only) achieve what it did... because Jesus rose from the dead. It was the fact of the resurrection that sent the apostles out into the world with the force necessary to create Christianity. Nothing else would have done it but that.” —Ann Rice, Christ the Lord

- D. So what does the resurrection of Jesus prove? That everything He said about our Heavenly Father, about Himself, about life and life after death is absolutely **true**.

- E. *Romans 10:9 “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

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Notes:
