

Unpacking the Preach

Date Sunday 26th July 2020
Sermon Title Do Not Doubt
Bible Passages John 20:26-27 & Matthew 14:23-31

Introduction

Take time to read the passages again and reflect on the below questions:

- Are there any new or different things that the scriptures have spoken to you about?

Recapping the preach

- Thomas may have doubted the source of this amazing news, but rather than his doubts leading him away from the centre of the good news (Jesus) he met with Jesus through staying with those sources (disciples/family).
- Acknowledging doubt or 'doubting our doubts' allows a way for the truth to build faith if we enquire of God.
- Doubt usually doesn't offer a better solution; it just nags at the ones we already have (can never be satisfied).
- We have 3 choices when faced by Doubt: *Flee*, *Stop* or *Press On* (2 examples of *fleeing* are Judas and Jonah, an example of *Stopping* is Peter on the water, With the example of *pressing on* into truth being Thomas)
- Unlike *Healthy* doubt that we use to seek truth, *Bad* Doubt renders our faith weak and ineffective.

Questions for reflection

- During the week spent with the disciples/family until Jesus appeared to them again, what impact on Thomas do you think his friends had on him?
- If Thomas would have kept his doubt to himself, could this have impacted his decision to stay and not leave?
- Can you recall a time where doubting some part of your faith has led you away from other Christians, maybe even God?

- Reflecting on your faith journey, have you noticed any of the signs that may have accompanied those times of weak/ineffective faith? (Lack of endurance, Often faltering, Anticipating God's plans, Lack of trust, Unchanged life, Seldom going beyond words)

Going deeper...with Jeremiah.

Doubt is not unbelief, it is part of the process of perfecting our faith. It also allows God to examine and show us all parts of our lives.

- **Questions for reflection**
- What great words of hope/promise/encouragement from God led you to faith, or to enquire of it?
- When doubts comes, how often do you remind yourselves of these words? (Read of Jeremiah's doubts 15:20 with 1:18-19)
- The Lord searches the heart and examines the mind (Jer 17:10a – part of v5-13) Jeremiah realised it was foolish to go to anyone else other God when those doubts and fears arose – can you say this is true of you?
- Most doubt is not around belief in God, but rather his sovereignty (Jer 15:8 and 2:13) do you think this statement is true?
- Someone once said “To deal with doubt, you must let it get out!” Doubt can play havoc with our feelings – how are you with sharing your feelings when you pray? Does this mirror how you share burdens with others? (Rom 5:4)

Response

- Remember God's great promises in the past
- Trust God completely, whatever our feelings
- Recognise once again the sovereignty of God
- Continue to Pray

Prayer pointers

- CONSISTENCY - Resist doubts by practicing trust (Josh 24:15)
- COMMITMENT – Follow and trust only in God (Matt 8:22)

- CHARACTER – Comes from Perseverance and builds our faith in the hope of salvation (Rom 5:4)

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>