

## Unpacking the Preach

Date: 17th April 2022  
Sermon Title: Eyewitnesses: resurrection  
Bible Passage: John 20: 19 -31

### **Introduction**

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- What stands out to you from this story?
- Who are the main characters mentioned in the story?
- What do you think it was like encountering Jesus for the first time?
- Watch the Bible Project Resurrection Video for Luke's Gospel ([link](#))

### **Recapping the Preach**

Stu began by describing how Thomas may have felt having missed the opportunity to see the risen Jesus. Thomas then doubted the other Apostles chose to harbour his doubts, unless he could see for himself. Stu mentioned that having doubts from time to time is a normal part of discipleship but it is important to face these doubts and bring them into the open.

- Do you think it is OK to have doubts from time to time?
- What doubts (if any) have you had about the Christian faith?
- If you could ask God one question, what would it be? Why that question?
- What is the difference between unbelief and doubt?
- If you were in Thomas' shoes, do you think you would have believed the other disciples?

A whole goes by, when Jesus appears again to the disciples saying 'Peace be with you!' The focus then turns to Jesus speaking to Thomas, inviting him to examine His wounds and then inviting him to stop doubting and believe.

- How does Jesus handle Thomas' doubts, demands and conditions?
- How does Thomas respond when he sees Jesus' wounds and resurrected body?
- Jesus pronounces a blessing in John 20:29. How does this compare with 1 Peter 1:8?

Stu's main point was: believing in the resurrection will help us to see through our doubts. He went on to say that we can have great confidence in the resurrection because we have eyewitness accounts in the gospel, that Jesus is alive and in believing we bring Him glory.

- Do you agree with Stu's main idea 'Believing the resurrection helps us to see through our doubts'?
- What evidence is there of the resurrection
- How would you answer someone who is skeptical about the eyewitness accounts of the gospels?

The message ended with an invitation to both believers to go on believing and bring doubts into the light. But also for those not yet Christians to make a decision.

- Where do you fit: believer or not-yet-Christian and what are you choosing to believe?

### **Response**

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Tradition holds that Thomas went on to become a missionary in the East (India). What will you do in response to meeting the risen Lord Jesus?

**Prayer pointers**

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.

**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/>