

Taking it Home:

- Are there things that you are currently afraid to deal with or serious issues within your heart you won't reveal to anyone because you have a genuine concern that God cannot or will not help you?
- Are you dealing with some serious life issues where you desperately need strong faith to help you get through them? Have you told a close loved one? Have you talked to a close Christian friend? Have you prayed about the issue? Have you spoken to a pastor?
- In John 20:20-31, John reveals his purpose why he wrote this gospel: (1) to have saving belief in Jesus Christ as Savior; (2) by believing in Jesus Christ you have life, Greek: *Zoe*, "eternal life," through Him. Have you trusted Jesus Christ as Savior, though you've never seen Him? (Cf. John 20:29). What's preventing you from trusting Jesus as Savior?

Share the Passion
Believe Without Seeing
John 20:29

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Bethel Church
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Believe Without Seeing

While seeing the resurrected Jesus proved helpful to Thomas, believing without seeing him brings a special blessing because of the measure of faith employed and then validated when Christ calls one home.

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelc.com

Growth Group Homework

For the week of June 6, 2010

John 20:29

Quick Review: The disciples are affirming the supernatural physical resurrection by Jesus to Thomas, but he remains unconvinced. He wanted bodily proof of Jesus' risen state. After Thomas physically touches Jesus' wounds, Thomas believes and makes his amazing response, "My Lord and My God." After Thomas' confession of faith, Jesus makes a demonstrative declaration that still challenges people today in John 20:29.

My Story

- Have you ever heard about an unbelievable story from friends you really trusted, but you did not believe what you heard; but afterward you found out what your friends told you was true? Share that experience. How did you feel when you found out their story was true after you doubted them?
- What are some of the factors that can lead people to have doubt about their faith? What are some of yours?
- Has there ever been a time in your Christian life that you doubted your faith? What caused you to doubt, and how did you deal with the doubt?

Growing Deeper

- Why do you suppose Thomas didn't believe the other disciples when they told him Jesus was alive?
- READ John 20:19-26. How many times does Jesus say to His disciples, "Peace, be with you"? Why do you think Jesus is saying, "Peace, be with you," so many times in only 7 verses?
- In John 20:24-25, Thomas was authentic. He was saying what he felt and thought; he truly had doubt. He didn't hide his thoughts. How did Jesus react towards Thomas' doubt? What caused Thomas to genuinely believe Jesus was alive; physically resurrected from the grave?
- Pastor Matthew stated that the most basic form of belief is "the extension of trust and devotion to a person and/or an idea. Such trust and devotion includes a conviction about something that motivates the volitional giving of that trust." Is it possible for a person to have volitional (willful) saving faith (trust) in Jesus as Savior without believing Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, the One and Only Savior of man? (Cf. Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 1 Peter 1:2-3)
- What did Jesus mean in John 20:29, when He said, "Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believe"? Read and interpret Matthew 12:39; 1 Cor. 1:22-25; 1 Peter 1:8.
- According to the Scriptures and Pastor Matthew's message, does saving faith (trust) in Jesus Christ as Savior create inner "peace" in believers; even during times of distress, persecution, troubles and worry? Read the following Scriptures and interpret: Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 26:3-4, John 14:27, John 16:33, Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:7.