

HOW JESUS DEALT WITH DOUBT

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' arrest, trials, death, burial, and resurrection are mentioned in four chapters of the Gospel of John. Chapter 18 covers His arrest and trials. Chapter 19 covers His death and burial while chapters 20-21 cover His resurrection along with the events that occurred afterwards including the uncertainties that people faced when they heard about it. Obviously, His return was a hard pill for some to swallow including the Apostles. It shook them to the core which is what we are going to talk about today by looking at "4 Ways that Jesus Dealt with People's Doubts" in this passage.

1). He Dealt with Their Doubts by Giving Peace to the Apostles (verse 19).

Verses 19 says, *"So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'"*

Discussion Question A: Describe this passage in your own words.

Discussion Question B: Now describe why Jesus said "Peace be with you." What kind of peace was Jesus offering the disciples and why were they in such desperate need of it?

2). He Dealt with Their Doubts by Giving the Holy Spirit to the Apostles (verses 20-23).

Verses 20-22 says, *"And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"*

Discussion Question A: What was the reason that Jesus showed the Apostles His hands and side? Do ghosts have hands and sides?

Discussion Question B: Why did Jesus breathe on them in order to give them the Holy Spirit?

3). He Dealt with Their Doubts by Giving Grace to Thomas (verses 24-25).

Verses 24-25 says, *“But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.’”*

Discussion Question A: Explain Thomas’ response to the resurrection. Were his doubts shared by others at this time or was he all alone in his concerns?

Discussion Question B: Is his response unusual today? Are there people among us who would say “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails ... I will not believe?”

4). He Dealt with Their Doubts by Giving a Rebuke to Thomas (verses 26-29).

Verses 26-29 says, *“After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.’”*

Discussion Question A: How did Jesus’ words encourage Thomas in this passage? How did they serve as a rebuke to him?

Discussion Question B: What does the phrase “Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed” mean? Why was it necessary for Thomas to hear that?