

April 27, 2025 – Sermon

John 20:19–31 – “Help Me to Believe!”

I’m going to make a few bold claims, and you decide: fact or fiction.

Do clouds have weight? They seem to float effortlessly above us, but yes—a large cloud can weigh over a million pounds. Hard to believe, but true.

How about this: Are there more trees on earth than stars in the Milky Way? Again, yes. Roughly 3 trillion trees compared to 400 billion stars. Looking up at the night sky, that’s tough to wrap your head around—but it’s true.

That tension—between what’s hard to believe and what turns out to be true—is exactly where we meet Thomas in today’s Scripture.

Thomas often gets labeled as “the doubter,” but his story is deeper than that. In other traditions—especially from Syria—Thomas is portrayed as a spiritual insider, a keeper of secret wisdom. But John gives us a different portrait: not of mysticism, but of gritty realism.

Thomas doesn’t take anyone’s word for it. He needs to see for himself. And Jesus doesn’t shame him for it—He meets him there. He offers the proof. “Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out and touch my side.”

John includes this moment not just to affirm Thomas’s confession—“My Lord and my God”—but to declare something even more radical: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

That’s us.

We’re not eyewitnesses to the resurrection. But we believe. And through that belief, we see. We experience the risen Christ. We carry His mission. We bring His peace.

And it’s not just a message of resurrection—it’s a message of reconciliation. Jesus didn’t only rise to prove a point—He rose to make peace. To show us how to love, how to forgive, how to embody grace in a world that prefers judgment.

He sends us out the same way the Father sent Him: with purpose, with the Holy Spirit, and with the calling to share the gospel—the way to forgiveness and life.

Jesus' final command was clear: go. Share the message. Be the living proof.

That's our mission.

To tell a world full of doubt and cynicism that forgiveness is real. That grace is real. That peace is possible.

And yes—it might look foolish. Loving people who hurt you. Forgiving without being asked. Believing without seeing. Jesus went to the cross looking like a fool to the world. But He did it to show us how it's done.

So maybe the question today isn't "Did Thomas believe?"
Maybe it's: Will you?

Did you hear the one about the God who dared us to believe?
The one who said peace comes through forgiveness?
The one who loved the world so much He gave His Son—
And trusted us to carry that love forward?

Check it out.
He's still doing it.