

“Why the Resurrection of Jesus Matters”

John 20:24-31

April 20, 2003 Pastor Harry Skeele

Introduction:

I. The challenge of faith: Christianity is about _____ things.

3 things about Thomas:

1. He was _____ with a _____ streak.

"Let us also go, that we may die with him." John 11:1-16

2. He was _____.

⁴You know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:4-6

3. He was _____.

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

The challenge of faith: Christianity is about _____ things!

II. The process of coming to faith: being _____ about _____.

1. Honest unbelief _____ the remaining _____.

“unless I see the nail marks . . . and put my finger where the nails were . . . and put my hand in his side, I will not believe it!” John 20:25

Two lessons about doubt:

1) Honest doubt, when expressed, can be lead to a _____ and faith.

2) _____ - _____ doubt is not healthy, but pathological.

v27: “stop doubting, and believe!”

2. Honest unbelief responds to _____ – 3 kinds

_____ evidence: the coherence of the Bible's _____

_____ evidence: the confirmation from _____

_____ evidence: the unique _____ of the Bible

3. The commitment of believing: I need a _____, _____ faith.

I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God
unless he is born again. Jn 3:3

You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' Jn 3:7

III. The benefit of faith: my life . (29,31)

1. _____ with _____

“**blessed** are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (20:29)

2. fullness of _____

“these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that
by believing **you may have life** in his name.” (20:31)

Application

1. If I am a Christian, I need to _____ a _____ in Jesus.

Most congregations of professing Christians today are saturated with a kind of dead
goodness, an ethical respectability which has its motivational roots in the flesh rather than
in the illuminating and enlivening control of the Holy Spirit. Paul describes this surface
righteousness which **does not spring from faith** and the Spirit's renewing action, but
from religious pride and conformity, as a form of godliness which denies it's power.

Richard Lovelace, **Dynamics of Spiritual Life**, p. 92.

These (things) are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of
God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. Jn 20:31

2. If I am not a Christian, I need to _____ to God's _____ to me.

These (things) are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of
God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. Jn 20:31