

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, April 8, 2018
Easter Trilogy 2018 +1
4: The Second Sunday

TEXT: John 20:24-29 / Hebrews 11:1

We celebrated the resurrection last week, and it was good. We walked all the way from the weeks before, to the triumphal entry, to the cross, and then to the throne. We saw what happened on that first Sunday of the new era. Today we want to jump ahead a week. Jesus is alive! We know it. The first disciples certainly knew it, too. But their faith took a bit to develop. Today we visit them on the second Sunday and learn to battle through our unbelief when the music isn't playing.

- 1) The Eighth Day: Commitment time
 - a) The day of circumcision for the newborn under the Old covenant. The day of my commitment to His covenant. Colossians 2:11-12
 - b) The first day of the week: Sunday.
 - i) He promised to show up at their gatherings: Matthew 18:20
 - ii) Sunday, the first day of the week, became the regular gathering of disciples for worship: Acts 20:7 / 1 Corinthians 16:2 / Revelation 1:10
 - c) Note that Thomas had missed the first gathering
 - i) What does that say about Thomas? He was one of the Twelve. Where was he?
 - ii) Whatever the reason, on the day of the Lord's resurrection, he missed the initial visit of the Lord, the giving of the Spirit, and the commission. It is dangerous to forsake the gathering. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- 2) Thomas: Committed but not always convinced.
 - a) John 11:1-16. Loyal obedient while assuming the worst.
 - i) Jesus knew it was dangerous, but He announced His intention to raise the dead. V8-11
 - ii) Thomas assumed that they would all die. You gotta love his commitment, but his assumption was the worst.
 - iii) **Fighting doubt requires controlling what you think about.** Philippians 4:6-8 We pray, believe we receive, give thanks, then think on these things.
 - b) John 14:1-6. If Jesus says you have it, then you have it!
 - i) Jesus announces His plan and informs the disciples that they already know the way. Thomas immediately contradicts the Lord.
 - ii) The Good News seems too good to be true to the natural mind. Let your heart win the war between heart and head.

iii) Faith believes what the Word promises:

- (1) When I pray in tongues, I get built up: 1 Corinthians 14:4
- (2) When I ask for wisdom, I get it. James 1:5,6
- (3) I always get what I believe I receive when I pray. Mk. 11:24.... Etc.

c) John 20:24-29 Faith requires a decision to move beyond the senses.

- i) Thomas had heard "I will rise" from Jesus. Lk 9:22 / etc. and "He has risen" from the other disciples.
- ii) **But:** "Unless I see....and put..." - He demanded evidence from at least two senses. "I will not believe" - He made a volitional decision to doubt. Will is involved in believing.
- iii) Jesus responded by giving him sense evidence and commanding him to begin believing as and act of will.
- iv) Pronounced a special blessing on those who believe without seeing. It includes many of you! Hebrews 11:1

3) Jesus responds to unbelief with grace

- a) Jesus provides him with the same opportunity to believe that he gave the other 10 on resurrection day. (remember 20:20)
- b) Remember the dad with the demonized boy? Mark 9:22 -24
 - i) That he brought the boy in the first place tells us he believed in the possibility of deliverance.
 - ii) the disciples stoked his doubts. v. 19
 - iii) Like most of us, he had faith and unbelief in the same mind.
- c) The Lord will provide encouragement to those who show a desire, a willingness, to believe.
 - i) As the Father sent Jesus to seek and save the lost, to do infallible proofs of His resurrection, that men might have life abundantly, to proclaim the Gospel of the kingdom, so He sends us
 - (1) God is so merciful that he sends us with the same kind of proofs (see Acts 1:2) to demonstrate (1 Cor 2:1-5).
 - (2) If they believe because of the words you speak, they are blessed, but if not they can believe you for the very works sake. John 14:10-12
 - ii) The fact you are here today says you at least believe in the possibility of a God who can help you. I have good news, He can, and He is willing, and He will help your unbelief.
 - iii) Mark 9:19 Jesus said, "Bring him to Me."

Bring your problems and your unbelief to the Lord.
He can handle both.

