

Doubting Thomas - John 20:19-31

"Be not faithless. Only believe."



Thomas was discouraged, disappointed, dismayed, disillusioned, despondent, depressed and defeated.

Things didn't work out the way he had hoped and believed. Nothing worked out for good. Nothing seemed real. Life made no sense. God failed. Jesus lied. The devil won. It all seemed like a horrible hoax, big fat lie, a not-so-funny fairy tale.

Like the man Jesus encountered who had an epileptic son no one could cure, Thomas was crying out, "Lord, I believe. I'm trying. I really want to believe. Lord, help my unbelief!!!" -- I need a little help. I can't conjure up faith. I'm running on empty. I can't pretend anymore. I can't play the game. I need a jump start. I need a push up this hill. I need a personal

encounter. I need you to show up. I need to see, touch, feel, smell and taste that you're really real. I need proof!!!

Believing isn't really easy.

Believing, that is, real faith, is being absolutely certain, without a shadow of a doubt remaining, sure way beyond just hoping a thing is true. It's being convinced. It's being unshakable. It's being absolutely certain God is not kidding, teasing, exaggerating, or dangling a carrot in front of you.

Perhaps this Easter finds you a doubting Thomas. Your faith is discouraged. You're depressed. You're disappointed with God. It may be it's a healing that didn't come, your sad marriage, your lost job, your limited income, your money that's run out, or your investments that failed. It may be some long-standing unanswered prayer.

So you're in Thomas' shoes today. You need a miracle. You need help. You need faith because you're running on fumes. Then do like Thomas. Say it! Cry out to God. Tell him what you feel. Show him what hurts. Tell him why you're unhappy. Tell him how he failed. Pour out your case before him. Tell him, "Lord, I want to believe. HELP MY UNBELIEF!!!"

The story of Thomas is there in the Bible for a reason. God wants you to know -- He hears your cry. He feels your pain. He sees your situation. He understands your doubts. He cares about your secret longings. He's coming. He will answer your heart-cry.

JUST CRY OUT -- HELP ME LORD!