

Breaking The Chains Of Doubt

Outline – October 22, 2023

Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 7:18-22; John 20:24-38

Doubt Is Something We Will All Experience

- I. **The reality of doubt**
 - A. A natural occurrence
 - 1. In life
 - 2. In relationships
 - 3. In decision making
 - B. Doubt that goes unchecked creates bondage
 - 1. Enslaves you
 - 2. Robs you of what God has for you
- II. **The Japanese soldier who would not surrender (did not believe the war was over)**
 - A. He doubted the leaflets
 - B. Left alone
 - C. Thirty years later he finally believes
 - D. Maybe that is your story
- III. **What doubt does if it goes unchecked**
 - A. It robs you of your freedom
 - B. It isolates you from fellowship, peace and hope
 - C. You keep fighting a war that should have been settled
 - D. You keep suffering and trying to survive
 - E. You waste so much time (that you will never get back)
- IV. **Doubts handled properly can draw us closer to God**
 - A. Faith is a journey not a destination
 - 1. You grow in faith
 - 2. You get stronger in faith
 - 3. You become more mature in faith
 - 4. Faith is something that can be shaken at times
 - 5. "I believe, but help my unbelief"
 - B. Faith needs certain ingredients to keep it strong
 - 1. Evidence
 - 2. Experience
 - 3. Encouragement
 - 4. Effort
- V. **How do we process our doubts**
 - A. Evidential process: Look at the evidence and proofs
 - 1. John 14:11
 - 2. Acts 1:2-3
 - 3. Know the power of the miracles performed
 - 4. Know the prophecies fulfilled

5. Know the facts about the resurrection
6. Miracles support His deity
7. Prophecy supports His authority
8. Resurrection is the cornerstone of His mission
9. Eyewitnesses give testimony
10. A record was given to us

VI. Two powerful examples

A. John the Baptist

1. Grew up with Jesus
2. Relative of Jesus
3. Announces Jesus ministry
4. Baptizes Jesus
5. No one better
6. But now he is alone in prison, facing execution, and is expecting a different outcome

B. He is asked "are you the one or do we look for someone else?"

C. The response of Jesus

1. What he didn't say
2. Gives words of evidence
3. Demonstrates His power through miracles

D. Thomas

1. Wasn't with the group initially
2. Won't believe without evidence
3. He was specific
4. He was hurting and questioning
5. Jesus met Thomas where he was
6. He believed
7. He responded
8. He later went to India and preached for 40 years

VII. Why is this important?

A. We all have doubts

1. Feel as if God is far away
2. Loss, tragedy

B. When this happens, we are called to do 5 things

1. Remember the evidence and experience of what God has done
2. Return to the evidence
3. Review the evidence
4. Recite the evidence
5. Pray by leaning into God and leaning away from the world

**Then you will declare: I know, I believe, I am confident
I Win In The End, The Chains Are Gone.**