

Outline – April 26, 2020

Luke 7:18-28

Why Do You Doubt

Matthew 14:29-33

Doubts And Questions Are Real In All Of Our Lives

I. What's the difference

- A. Faith is often tested
 - 1. To prepare us for a new level of service, ministry, responsibility
 - 2. Testing sometimes lasts a while
 - 3. Testing reveals where your faith really is
 - 4. God's testing unlocks God's blessing
- B. Questions will always be there
 - 1. We are called to ask, seek, knock
 - 2. We are called to examine everything
- C. Unbelief is denial
 - 1. Sometimes of what is true and evidential
 - 2. Sometimes we don't want to believe
- D. Doubt is feeling, thinking, behaving and responding with uncertainty

II. Doubt is a diagnosis unto itself

- A. Doubting is a sign of uncertainty
 - 1. Need for more information
 - 2. Sign of feeling broken
 - 3. Sign of feeling troubled
 - 4. Sign of fear and anxiety in a new area
- B. If not managed, doubt can be destructive
 - 1. Destructive to purpose
 - 2. Destructive to meaning
 - 3. Destructive to assurance
 - 4. Destructive to moral choices
- C. Those who left the faith
 - 1. Charles Templeton
 - 2. Mike Sherrner
 - 3. Dan Baker

III. Why do we doubt (after believing in Jesus)

- A. Not ready for some things
 - 1. Relationships challenge us (fear of rejection)
 - 2. Academic or business settings
- B. False information
 - 1. Believing what God never declared
 - 2. Expectations not met
 - 3. Told things that are not examined
- C. Drift away
 - 1. Focus on other things
 - 2. Stop doing the little things
- D. Questions that go unanswered
 - 1. Confused
 - 2. Disappointed
 - 3. Tragic event

- E. We get burned out
 - 1. Forget what God has done
 - 2. Let emotions take over our soul

IV. Major figures who struggled with doubt

- A. Peter
 - 1. Witnessed miracles
 - 2. Wanted to be near Jesus
 - 3. Went out of the boat
 - 4. Walked on water
 - 5. Saw the waves
 - 6. Succumbed to fear
 - 7. Sank – was saved (Jesus' response – "why did you doubt")
- B. John the Baptist
 - 1. Related to Jesus
 - 2. Rugged individual
 - 3. Popular among the people
 - 4. Prepared the way for Jesus (behold the Lamb)
 - 5. Put in prison for speaking out
 - 6. Perplexed that nothing was happening
 - 7. Needed some assurance (bold to broken)
- C. Jesus' response
 - 1. Tell John what you see - (eyewitness to miracle)
 - 2. Tell John prophecy is fulfilled
 - 3. Tell John gospel is proclaimed
 - 4. Jesus used scripture to ease John's doubts
 - 5. Jesus bragged on John
 - 6. Jesus told John to trust Him
 - 7. Refocused John's doubts
- D. Thomas will not believe unless
 - 1. Jesus met Thomas where he was
 - 2. Jesus works with us
 - 3. Jesus can handle our doubts as we bring them to Him
 - 4. Thomas received the evidence and believed "my Lord and my God"

V. What to do when doubt hits

- A. Remember it's a way of testing
- B. Text examine, pursue the answer
- C. Seek fellowship, seek counsel
- D. Ask, seek, knock, call out
- E. Turn doubt into certainty
 - 1. He who knows nothing, doubted nothing
 - 2. He who knows something, doubted something
 - 3. Sometimes you have to go through doubt to find certainty
 - 4. Lean on the truth of scripture
 - 5. Jesus is the best answer

**Believe In Him
Deal With Your Doubt
Grow In Your Faith**

