

So That You Might Believe

John 20:19–31

from the Sermon Series Prelude to the Resurrection

Frank Lewis & Gary Morgan

Part One: Jesus and the Disciples vs 19-23

- Why were the disciples afraid?
- Why was the greeting of “peace” so significant?

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. **John 14:27**

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” **John 16:33**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6–7**

The mission of the church grows out of the mission of _____.

Part Two: Jesus and Thomas vs 24-29

- What do you struggle with that causes you to doubt?

“A faith without some doubts is like a human body with no antibodies in it. People who blithely go through life too busy or indifferent to ask the hard questions about why they believe as they do will find themselves defenseless against either the experience of tragedy or the probing questions of a smart skeptic. A person's faith can collapse almost overnight if she failed over the years to listen patiently to her own doubts, which should only be discarded after long reflection.” — Tim Keller

- How can you overcome these doubts?
- What does it mean to "believe without seeing?"

“If ours is an examined faith, we should be unafraid to doubt. If doubt is eventually justified, we were believing what clearly was not worth believing. But if doubt is answered, our faith has grown stronger. It knows God more certainly and it can enjoy God more deeply.”

-- Os Guinness

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. **Romans 10:17 (ESV)**

Part Three: John and Jesus vs 30-31

- How much evidence (according to you) do we need to believe in Jesus as our Messiah?
- Belief is a confident conviction in God that He is true and reliable, and that by faith we can be forgiven because of what Christ has accomplished, and that being forgiven we can have life everlasting.

If you have questions about what it means to believe, please contact Frank or Gary this week. We'd consider it a privilege to talk with you. Email us at Frank.Lewis@Nashvillefirst.org or Gary.Morgan@Nashvillefirst.org.