

This morning, I will share 3 statements with you about myself of which two are true and one is false. Your job is to figure out which statement you doubt.

1. When I was at my Advanced Individual Training with the Army, the Army lost me and nobody from my unit could find out where I was. It was our senator who finally found me right where I told my family where I was stationed.

2. I took apart my first car engine last May.

3. I raced stockcars in 3 faster pastors races at Rockford Speedway.

So which statement do you doubt? As you thought of those statements, what caused you to doubt them? As we hear statements, don't we automatically think if the statement is 100% fact or could it possibly be exaggerated a little bit. Whenever we hear something, we automatically start judging it as we try to figure out what is true and what is not true.

That is what happened in our gospel. Earlier that day, the disciples heard a strange tale. Some women that they knew had gone to the tomb and found it empty. And the tale did not end there because there was an angel who had told them that Jesus was in fact alive.

It was now later that day and 10 of the disciples were locked up in a house because they were afraid. They didn't really understand what all was happening. But there was one disciple missing when Jesus appeared to them. Thomas, who became known as doubting Thomas to the rest of the world.

I believe Thomas gets a bum rap because if you read the gospel again, it clearly says that the other disciples did not rejoice until after Jesus showed them his hands and side. They too needed proof before they believed that Jesus was in fact their risen Lord.

It can be very difficult to believe something without proof. We like to know what we believe is factual. But when it comes to Jesus, we don't always have that luxury. Jesus didn't just die and so we are not direct eye witnesses to his death and resurrection. Jesus did not appear to us this morning as he appeared to his disciples and showed us his hands and side.

And yet, even without that eyewitness evidence, we still believe. We trust the story of God's great love for each one of us as HE gave HIS son who would give his own life so that we could live. This is why we are blessed.

After reappearing to the Thomas the following week, where Thomas said, "My Lord and my God," Jesus said "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Just like the rest of the disciples,

Thomas had to see in order to believe and so Jesus told them that those who are able to believe without seeing are blessed.

Jesus was talking about us when he made that statement. We are the ones who believe without seeing. Yes there are times where we do doubt. There are times where we question God. But we continue to believe.

Sometimes it is really hard to believe that something is true. But when it comes to God's love for us in Christ Jesus, we can trust in God's saving activity. We can trust that Christ Jesus gave his life so that we may live. Trust in that promise and know that you are blessed.