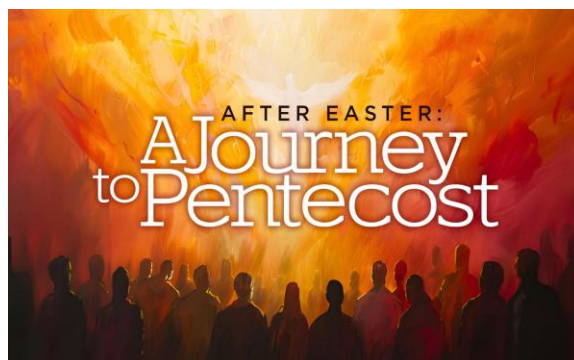




Series Overview: What happened to the apostles and Jesus after the Resurrection Sunday (Easter)? The Bible records several experiences over a 50-day period leading from the Passover to Pentecost and the beginning of the church. Their reactions and actions form some great lessons for us today. Pentecost Sunday this year is June 8 so we'll walk with the disciples over the next seven weeks in that incredible time of transition.

DOUBT AND BELIEF

John 20:19-31

Lesson Introduction: For the followers of Christ, Easter, or the Resurrection, didn't immediately erase all their fears, uncertainties, or questions. They had seen the open tomb, but they still struggled to understand what it all meant. And one of them wasn't there when Jesus first appeared and when told, he refused to believe. He needed proof! His reaction can be criticized, but if we're honest, haven't we all wrestled with doubts at times? Haven't we faced moments when faith felt difficult? As we study today, we'll see that Jesus met Thomas in his doubts, with grace. We will note how doubt isn't the end of faith, but often the beginning of a deeper belief in Jesus!

THE _____ OF THE APOSTLES (DISCIPLES)

verses 19-23

- Fear can be paralyzing. *"the doors were locked for fear of the Jewish leaders"*
- But in their fear, Jesus comes to them. *"Jesus came and stood among them..."*
- He shifts them from fear to mission! *"As the Father sent me, I am sending you"*
- Jesus' presence transforms their fears into faith. *"Receive the Holy Spirit"*
"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7

THOMAS' DOUBT AND _____ STRUGGLE

verses 24-25

- Faith is not always an easy thing to discover or implement. *"We have seen....Unless I see..."*
- Faith struggles are best found in "community" *Hebrews 10:23-25*

JESUS MEETS THOMAS WHERE _____

verses 26-29

- God is not distant from our doubts, but meets us in them. *"Put your finger here...stop doubting"*
- Thomas' declares his faith! *"My Lord and my God!"*
- This teaches us that honest doubt can lead to deeper faith.

THE OVERALL _____ OF THE BOOK OF JOHN

verses 30-31

- *"...Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*
- *"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."*
- *"We live (walk) by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7*