

# MESSAGE NOTES

APRIL 4, 2021

EASTER | STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE

JOHN 20:1-29

## BIG IDEA

If Jesus rose from the dead, you can stop doubting and believe. And if you believe, stop delaying and spread the Good News!

**AIM:** For people to find life, as they believe the tomb was empty and his body was raised. For people to turn to Jesus to turn their grief to joy, fear to peace and doubts to faith. To help people.

**PEOPLE:** Jack, Libby/Ian, Claire, Bev, Gardy, Sean, Sherri, Dave, Ryan, Melanie, John, Mark M. & Mark F.

## INTRODUCTION: COVID-19 & THE FIRST EASTER

### THE GARDEN - MARY (John 20:1-18)

- Mary Magdalene:
  - A devoted follower of Jesus
  - A surprised follower
  - A grief-stricken follower
  - A commissioned follower

**APPLICATION:** An important word for followers of Jesus who want Him all to ourselves—don't delay! Don't keep Jesus to yourself. Share Him with the world—your world and God's world!

### THE UPPER ROOM - THOMAS (John 20:19-29)

#### a. Scene 1 (John 20:19-25)

- The disciples are locked in fear.
- Jesus builds up their faith by bringing the evidence (and being the evidence).
- Jesus gives them a commission—God never calls us to do something He doesn't equip us to do!

**APPLICATION:** For Jesus' Followers

- Anyone unclear about our mission?
- Anyone stuck wanting Jesus all to yourself? Don't keep Jesus to yourself!
- Anyone stuck in fear? Afraid you will be "killed" if you share Jesus?
- Anyone needing to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:29)?

#### b. Scene 2

- Thomas locked in doubt (John 20:26-29).
- Thomas locked into faith—My Lord and my God!
- Jesus speaks to you/us in verse 29, "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed". Can you say that? Maybe your thinking, "how can I believe that which I haven't seen?"

- o First, understand believing isn't as simple as seeing.
- o Second, remember Jesus' kindness to doubters like Thomas. He loves you, your doubts, your cynicism. Questions don't change His love for you.
- o Third, consider the evidence:
  - The empty tomb
  - The grave clothes
  - The resurrected body
  - The eye-witness accounts—not just one or two, Paul mentions over 500 people saw Jesus
  - The Old Testament Scriptures—Jesus' own words
  - The transformed lives of people like Thomas and other disciples who suffered, and many died sharing this news
- o Fourth, consider the changes that life in His name brings:
  - Mary's past rescued by God's grace.
  - Mary's grief and confusion turned to ecstatic joy.
  - The disciple's cowering fear met with peace and then amazing courage.
  - Thomas's fickle doubts turned to conviction and a bold confession.
- o Fifth, receive the blessing Jesus offers—new life in Him. Ask Jesus to open your eyes, to grant you faith—Lord, help me believe! You can do that right now by acknowledging your need for Jesus and confessing, like Thomas, that He is your Lord and your God.

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name (John 20:30-31).

## PRAYER

Dear God, I need your forgiveness. Jesus, I believe you died for me on the cross and rose from the dead. I place my trust in you and submit every area of my life under your loving leadership. By your Spirit strengthen me to live for you, pointing others to you. Amen.

## I SAID YES!

If you said YES to Jesus today, let us know! Text "isaidyes" to 608.292.3456.  
Or use the QR code to the right.

