

Faith Under Fire – “A Bout With Doubt”

Video – Thomas pt 1

Cue – When Pastor Paul Ends on the Vision

Faith Under Fire “A Bout With Doubt”

Intro:

A. ALL OF US ONE TIME OR ANOTHER HAS HAD “A BOUT WITH DOUBT”

1. When things are going good it's real easy to have FAITH and not to DOUBT.
2. But when things aren't going well: SICKNESS, JOB LOSS, FAMILY CRISIS.
3. We have “A BOUT WITH DOUBT”

A BOUT WITH DOUBT CAN MAKE YOU MISS OUT

A. LET'S GO BACK WHEN THE DISCIPLES WE'RE HANGING OUT TOGETHER AFTER RES,-

John 20:19 (NIV)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews

1. The disciples were hiding with the doors locked; they were all scared spit less of the Jews.
2. But **understand that Thomas wasn't with them**; he decided not to be part of the group.
3. The doubts he was going through kept him away from the group.

B. IT'S A COMMON EMOTION TO PULL AWAY FROM PEOPLE WHEN WE START TO DOUBT OUR FAITH.

1. Satan loves when he can make us doubt our faith, doubt our abilities, doubt Jesus in us.
2. He knows the first thing that we want to do is hide away from people who care.

C. There were no other people on the face of the earth that understood Thomas like the disciples.

1. Thomas should have been with his friends, people that had the same beliefs, people that could feel each other's pain.
2. They might have been scared spit less, but they had a unity together.
3. But because Thomas wasn't there he missed out on the blessing.

Faith Under Fire – “A Bout With Doubt”

John 20:19-22 (NIV)

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

4. They not only saw the resurrected Lord, but they received the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

BUT NOT ONLY DOES A BOUT WITH DOUBT MAKE YOU MISS OUT.

A BOUT WITH DOUBT MAKES YOU A SOUR KROUT

A. When the disciples ran into Thomas they told him about seeing Jesus Christ.

1. But Thomas stayed in his **SOUR KROUT** doubting attitude.
2. And it wasn't until a week later that Thomas finally saw Jesus.

3. WHAT HAPPENED DURING THAT WEEK?

4. He became critical of the body of believers. It was his own fault, but as human nature so often reacts, he blamed others through his aggravated spirit.
5. **He argued** against their experience with the resurrected Lord.
6. **Having taken all he could bear, in utter frustration he shouted out,**

John 20:25 (NIV)

Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

7. **Because of his BOUT WITH DOUBT it not only frustrated him it [delayed his blessing](#).**

Video – Thomas pt 2

Cue – “[delayed his blessing](#)”

B. My last point I want us to take a different look at this man that the world knows as DOUBTING THOMAS.

1. Poor ole Thomas, he made one mistake and now he's **SLAMMED** for it.

ILL: It's like when I say the name Dan Quayle what do most people think of: POTATO

Video – Dan Quayle

Cue – Pastor

Faith Under Fire – “A Bout With Doubt”

2. But nobody remembers after Jesus raised Lazarus that Thomas was the first one to say:

John 11:16 (NIV)

Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

3. He didn't have “**A Bout with Doubt**” he knew and believed who Jesus was - he was willing to die for him.
4. So why are we so hard on Thomas and remember him as a doubter
5. At least Thomas had enough guts to say what was in his heart.

WHEN YOU HAVE

A BOUT WITH DOUBT DON'T POUT CHECK IT OUT

A. In our lives we've all been A DOUBTING Thomas' one way or another.

1. And I believe that this story is also showing **US THAT IT'S OK TO ASK QUESTIONS.**
2. But as you ask questions the Lord wants us to understanding that He knows where you're at in your frustrations, disappointments, and discouragements.

John 20:26-29 (NIV)

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

3. I believe that Jesus came back just for Thomas because Jesus wanted to meet Thomas right where he was.
4. When Jesus came back he didn't **yell at Thomas or criticize him.**
5. But He did let him do something that the others disciples didn't do.

6. THOMAS TOUCHED HIM.

Conclusion:

AND BECAUSE OF THOMAS ASKING THE QUESTIONS AND EVEN IN HIS DOUBT JESUS SAYS:

**“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET HAVE BELIEVED”
HE WANTS TO MEET YOU RIGHT WHERE YOUR AT -**