

End our amazing grace series...banners are too pretty for one weekend use...epilogue

God's Grace is amazing and I hope that's what you walk away with in this series

- **God's Grace acts (applied) on our behalf... Worst year... Sat down & just stated blessings**  
I think we can get bogged down in the woes and miss the wonder

We gaze at things we should glance and glance at things we should gaze

We should glance at the worries...give them just the right amount of attention  
We should gaze at the wonder...give Him the full attention

Text – Doubting Thomas...Had not been present first day of resurrection... 'I don't believe you'

**Big Idea – God's Amazing Grace Overwhelms Our Doubt** | God's grace overwhelmed his & ours

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." <sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Called 'Doubting Thomas'...not fair...more like 'Skipped church the wrong Sunday Thomas' | YOU

- You miss church... 'Hey, Jesus was here' – Nah...(Now you shouldn't) | Irritated with Thomas
  - 1st – History = Thomas died martyr India...speared & decapitated | Get skipping church
  - Second – Who hasn't doubted their faith? Two kinds of Christians: Admit it or our lying
- Thomas' was just recorded for all time...most important Book...all time | Heaven...Quit!  
When we have doubt...that is where God will apply His grace...like salve to a wound...Three...

### 1. God's Grace Will: Meet Us Where We Are (24-26)

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

'Twin' – Not sure... 'Thomas' means twin...nickname? Looked like Jesus? Was a real twin?

- The week after the resurrection...disciples tell Thomas that Jesus is alive...what does he say  
"Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Challenge Accepted
  - The next Sunday they were all together, locked door...1<sup>st</sup> Century...keep people out (Jews)
    - Jesus comes in anyway and says, 'Peace be with you' Couple of things to note...
  - a. **Grace is Personal** = Disciples first and then Thomas...an individual being called not a group
  - b. **Grace is Progressive** = The other disciples were a week ahead of Thomas.
    - Disciples = 'I believe, now what?' | Thomas = 'See it believe it' | All different phases
  - c. **Grace is Phenomenal** = From Never & locked door to 'Peace be with you' | Jesus shows up!  
Think...How did Jesus come to you? How you progressing? Evidence of God's Phenomenal Grace
  - How do you feel if you're Thomas? Man...I'm caught...man...busted...Astonished & Terrified  
Welcome to Christianity...Jesus comes to those who are astonished and terrified  
I will NEVER Believe...and Jesus is moving through the obstacles to meet you where you are!
  - Was the door the obstacle? Thomas disbelief...Jesus will meet you where you are (Gospel)
- Disciples 1 for 12 – John cross | Mark clothes | Peter Denied | Judas Betrayed | Thomas Doubted  
The Grace of God will meet you where you are...and where you are needs the grace of God

### 2. God's Grace Will: Make Known Who Jesus Is (27)

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

- He went straight to Thomas...that would get your heart rate up...and what does he say?  
"Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side."
- Which one of you ratted on me?!?! Snitches get stitched! NO...Jesus is God and knew!  
Jesus knows you and wants you to know Him...look at what he does to draw Thomas  
This is the ultimate apologetic...Thomas had doubts and Jesus assuaged his doubts  
This is true of those who have doubts and to honestly seeking...seek and you will find
- Have questions about Christianity? There are answers – Clear as putting your hands wounds  
What's point? Do not disbelieve, but believe." - Stop becoming unbelieving and get on with believing
- It's time to get on the right path...right path he did...Thomas went on to make Jesus known  
How many times do you think Thomas told this story? So that he could make Jesus known!  
How many times have you told your story? To make Jesus known! You are a walking apologetic!  
??? Did Thomas put his hands in wounds? - Doesn't matter...because his response is perfect!

### 3. God's Grace Will: Mend Our Broken Faith (28-29)

<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Thomas' faith after crucifixion was broken...Never believe...unless...that's a broken faith

You want to know three words that get me into trouble:

Wish – When – Why...those are my faith breakers

Wish things were different - When will things get better - Why is this happening

God is big enough to handle our doubts...but we have to end up where Thomas did...

- My Lord is also my God – Personal confession of faith
- There is no denying that this is a confession of who Jesus is...Lord and God  
Thomas had been gazing at what he should have been glancing at...his doubt  
Now his attention's in the right place! Right at Jesus...right where it should be  
I get it...broken faith...sometimes doubts get their way in behind the armor
- (Friends) When it hasn't been your day...Rough day – week – month – season – year – life?  
It's about refocusing your gaze...are you going to stare at your circumstances and doubts?  
Are you going to gaze at Jesus and let him mend your broken faith
- (Song) 'I know my King is coming...it's just a matter of time'...mends my faith  
Here's what I remember...if you let your doubts win...you have to become a nihilist

Instead of calling him doubting Thomas...how about blessed and courageous Thomas

- Blessed...all the people on planet earth...Jesus showed himself in human form to Thomas...
- Courageous...Thomas went on to tell others who didn't have the chance to see Jesus human  
People in this room have come to know Christ because of who Thomas told...and who they told
- I mean we all have our history in one of 11!
- That's not true...we all have our history in one of one...the one Jesus

We all have doubts...but if you want your doubts assuaged...

- Get your glance and glare right...glance at the doubt and glare...longingly at Jesus (Pray)

### Conclusion (30-31)

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.