

Doubt: Dark Side of Faith
Shadow of a Doubt
July 1, 2012

PRELUDE – Marvelous Light

**Worship Songs – Marvelous Light, Jesus
Paid It All, Today**

Feature – Show Me Your Glory (Third Day)

Good morning everyone.

**In chapter nine of Mark's gospel we
read:**

*Jesus took Peter, James
and John with him and led
them up a high mountain,
where they were all
alone. There he was
transfigured before them.*

His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

They saw his glory.

Mark continues:

And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (Mark comments that he didn't know what to say because they were so scared by what they were seeing.)

Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

*As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.
Mark 9:1-9 (NIV)*

We'll come back to this story in a few minutes but first I want to say that today

we're beginning a new series which I'm calling "Doubt: The Dark Side of Faith." As you know if you were here last weekend or watched the message online, I recently completed a six-week sabbatical and through that experience, God impressed upon me several insights which I said would use to shape what we talk about in upcoming messages.

This week as I thought more about those insights, I began to notice a common thread which connected them beneath the surface. And it surprised me because that thread was *doubt*.

- What are we really here for in this life? Why *not* just settle for the old adage of "eat, drink, and be merry

for tomorrow we die?”

- Does being a person of faith make sense when you consider all the arguments against it; when you consider that the whole world is going in another direction; when you consider the trials and struggles that so many people go through?
- Does what we do here together every Sunday morning as a church really matter when the whole world, it seems, has decided to do something else?

Of course, I'm not the only one who sometimes struggles with doubt.

As I mentioned last week, I spent a lot

of time playing golf during my time off. One day, I joined up with two guys at Paradise Point and, as it always does, at one point it came out that I am a pastor. Several holes later, the pace of play slowed a bit. We were waiting on the tee box and one of the guys – out of the blue, no warning – says, “So, are dinosaurs in the Bible?” That led to a wide-ranging conversation covering evolution vs. the creation account in Genesis chapters one and two; whether or not Jesus physically rose from the dead and, if so, where is He right now since only spirits can be in Heaven; and whether or not the world is coming to an end anytime soon and the fact that Jesus isn’t planning to take humanity to Heaven, but to bring Heaven to Earth.

Amazingly, this whole discussion took place in less than five minutes. Bunch of guys, okay? Then it was our turn to tee off. And since I had just “defended” God to a complete stranger, I said a little prayer: “Lord, I would really like to crush this ball down the middle of the fairway so I don’t feel any more incompetent than I already feel.” And I did. It was my best drive of the day.

But that’s not the point. The point is that this random guy on this golf course had obviously been considering faith, but he has his doubts ... and he’d like to find some answers.

Closer to home, many of us here in this congregation are watching a good friend go through the final stages of his

battle with cancer. Paul Mann has been a part of our family for almost a decade and, in my mind, he (along with his wife, Becky) is the poster child for NHCC. And it's hard to see him suffer without thinking, "really? Is this what they deserve? God, how long are you going to let this go on?" One person in his small group told me, "I'm tired of seeing men who are dear to me face death."

That kind of thing does a number on your soul. It shakes your faith. And I'm sure that almost all of us here this morning could tell a similar story.

So, with all that in mind ... *I decided we should tackle this issue of doubt head-on for a while.*

And when I say “a while” I mean to communicate that I’m not sure how long this series will last. I spent many hours last week laying out a plan – in fact, I posted on The City that I would be posting the plan at the end of the week – but then I realized that I don’t want to take this time to deal with *my* questions unless they’re *your* questions, too. So, at this point, I only know what’s happening the next two weeks (well, and today). Beyond that, it’s your call.

And what I want to ask you to do for me – and I want to ask everyone to do this together so that no one feels weird – I want everyone right now to take out the card in the seat pocket in front of you.

Got it? Now, as we go thru the rest of this message, I want you to write down a "doubt list." What kinds of things cause you to doubt? What is it that you wrestle with that shakes your faith? Or, if you're not struggling with any kind of doubt, what do you hear most often from the people around you – especially people you meet on the golf course or people who don't go to church?

And just to be clear, I'm not looking for you to brainstorm a list for me because I've already done that. What I want to know is what matters deeply *to you and to the people around you*? What issues do you or they keep bumping up against that, if you got some kind of clarity, it would be really helpful? It

would help you move the faith ball down the field, so to speak.

Now, as I talk to you this morning, I suspect that thoughts and questions will come to you. So, whenever that happens, just write them down on the paper. Then, at the end of the service, as we leave, I want you to drop your list in the offering basket or put it in one of the offering boxes. (Don't put your name on it ... unless you just want to).

This week, I'll go thru all the lists and decide what to do with the rest of this series. If nobody here has any issues or questions, we'll be done two weeks from today. On the other hand, if there are a lot of issues we have in common, we'll take two months if we need to.

Reasonable Doubt

Of course, having said *all of that*, I'm sure that some of you are thinking, "Wow ... our *pastor* has *doubts*? He seems so confident every week. Hmmm."

And I'm pretty sure that some of you, especially if you're from a more traditional church background, are thinking, "I'm not so sure we should be talking about doubt in church. After all, aren't we're supposed to be a people of faith? What if we have some seekers here and they hear that sometimes we question some of the things we say we believe? Plus, isn't it a sin to doubt?"

I mean, the Apostle Paul wrote ...

*Everything that does not
come from faith is sin.*

Romans 14:23 (NIV)

And the book of Hebrews says:

*Without faith it is
impossible to please God.*

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

And if you read through the gospels, on several occasions Jesus basically yells at his disciples for doubting and not having faith. At least that's how it looks.

"So, Rick, I'm not sure this is going to be such a good thing. If you've got to do it, do it but hurry up and get it over with,

OK?”

I can understand why people might feel that way. And I can understand why it might be a little surprising to learn that pastors sometimes have doubts like everyone else. But, I think that means it's even *more* important to talk about this subject!

So, I want to start out this series by defining what I mean by doubt – and why it's not a sin. And then, I want to give you three high-level observations from the Bible that, I hope, will give us all a little bit of breathing room, a little bit of freedom on this issue.

When I speak of “doubt” what I mean is “a nagging uncertainty.” What I

***don't* mean is out and out “unbelief.”**

See, many people think *doubt* is the opposite of *faith*, but it isn't.

Doubt is *not* the opposite of faith. The opposite of faith is *unbelief* – a willful refusal to embrace what you know to be true.

Those are two very different things. The first, as we'll see shortly, is not a sin. The second, unbelief – refusing to embrace something that God has clearly shown you – is. In fact, it's the worst sin in the Bible.

But doubt is different. It's a nagging uncertainty about the things of God that, according to one of my favorite speakers, Pastor Ray Pritchard,

typically comes from one of three sources.

1. The first source is *intellectual*. Is Jesus the Son of God? How can God become a man? Did he really rise from the dead? How could that happen? What about evolution? What about people who never hear the gospel? Intellectual.
2. The second source is *spiritual*. Am I really a Christian? Am I really saved? Why is it so hard to pray? Why do I still feel so guilty? Why am I not changing? Is following Jesus really worth it?
3. The third source of doubt is *circumstantial*. This is the largest

category because it encompasses all the “whys” of life. Why did my child die? Why did my marriage break up? Why can’t I find a husband? Why did my friend betray me? Where was God when I was being abused? “These questions,” he writes, “touch the intersection of biblical faith and the pain of a fallen world.”ⁱ

So, that’s the definition of doubt I’m working with – nagging uncertainty that can be traced back to one of those three sources.

Now, let me give you those overarching observations from the Bible concerning doubt. I’ve got three on this list here and I’m going to spend most of my time

on the first one because I think it's the most important, especially moving forward in this series.

Observation #1. Doubt – nagging uncertainty – is normal.

If you and I have intellectual or spiritual or circumstantial questions that bug us from time to time, that sometimes discourage us, that sometimes make us wonder if maybe we're crazy to believe, *we're normal*.

I say that because in almost every story of great faith in the Bible, there is a corresponding shadow of doubt.

For example ... let's take one of the guys up on that mountain with Jesus,

the guy who eventually became known as the Apostle Peter. Remember that guy? Well, not too long before they made this trip up the mountain, Peter had shown great faith. You remember how the story goes, the disciples had launched out in a boat and Jesus had stayed behind to pray. They were going over the lake of Galilee and a storm came up and they were terrified. And, Jesus, it says, came up to them, walking on the water. They were all freaking out, but not Peter. He was going, "man, this ought to be fun; maybe I could do that," and he said, "Lord, bid me to come to you on the water." Great faith to even think it, and then to go and say it, and then when Jesus says, "come on," and he steps out of the boat, there's this great moment of faith.

Unbelievable! And then what happens next? He doubts. He goes, "uh, human beings are not supposed to be doing this kind of thing," and he then starts sinking, right? And what happens next? Jesus said, "look, either you believe or you don't. I'm on the boat. See you later," and then leaves him in the water. No! Jesus doesn't do that. Jesus pulls him up, "why did you doubt Pete? It was going so good, man. Come on, let's get in the boat and dry off."

Let me give you another example. Earlier we left Jesus with Peter, James and John up on the mountain. Let's follow them down and see what happens next. Mark writes in chapter nine verse 14 ...

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them.

So, you get the picture, the four of them come down the hill, and the other disciples who were there are having this big argument with the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. And ...

As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

Well, why were they overwhelmed with wonder? Because he had just been transfigured. His glory had just been shining on him and on them and so maybe there was some kind of glow or

something.

So, Jesus comes down, and he's not making a big deal out of it, and he says,

"What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.

A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

And Jesus says, "You unbelieving generation, how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

And just to be clear, I don't think Jesus is talking to the boy's father. I think Jesus is talking to his disciples who had seen miracle after miracle, and who had been part of these miracles. And, it's kind of interesting, a lot of people say, "If I could just see a miracle, I would be convinced. I would never have a doubt. I would never fall into the sin of unbelief." But these guys have seen so much more than any of us will ever see and, even then, it's still not enough.

Mark continues:

So they brought the boy to Jesus. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

Mark 9:21-22 (NIV)

"If you can'?" said Jesus. "If I can??" "Everything is possible for one who

believes."

Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Mark 9:23-24 (NIV)

"Jesus, I do believe. That's why I'm here. That's why I came to see your disciples. But there's a dark side to my faith. There's a shadow of doubt. But you know which one I want to win. I want faith to win. I want belief to win. Help me."

What does Jesus do? He doesn't condemn the guy – "ah, that's not good enough. Either you believe or you don't." Instead, he answers the man's prayer. Actually, he answers both of the

man's prayers. Mark tells us that He heals the child and, in the process, he helps the father overcome his doubts.

Now, do you think that guy ever doubted again? Do you think that later when he heard that Jesus had been crucified on a cross, he didn't go, "What? I thought that guy was God. I thought he was the Messiah." And, then, when he heard that Jesus had been resurrected, he thought, "I'm not sure I can buy that ..." Even then, even though he saw this great miracle, still, to the day he died he struggled with doubt.

Here's another example. Rewind a little bit to a time before Peter, James and

John appeared on the scene, to the period even before Jesus came onto the scene, publicly. Jesus was living in Nazareth, working in his father's shop as a carpenter. But, you remember the guy who kicked off his ministry? He was the forerunner, the voice crying in the wilderness "prepare the way for the Lord." His name was John. He's not the same John who ended up on the mountain with Jesus that day. Instead he's Jesus' older cousin, who becomes known as John the Baptist.

John had made one of the earliest public confessions of Jesus. Jesus came to the Jordan River, at the beginning of his ministry, to be baptized. John was out there and he was baptizing people, saying, "you need to repent and get

ready, because the Kingdom of God is coming." So, when John was out there doing that, the Bible says that he sees Jesus coming and he stops everything and tells everyone, "Look! Look at what's happening. The Lamb of God is going to take away the sin of the world! Here he comes." (John 1:29). Then he baptizes him and the dove comes from Heaven and this amazing, miraculous thing takes place. And there's a voice that says, "This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased." And John says, at the very end of the whole scene, he says, "I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." (v. 34). Make no mistake. John knew who Jesus was.

And Jesus, speaking of John later, says: "of all who have ever lived none is

greater in the sight of God.”ⁱⁱ He’s the greatest man of faith who has ever lived, greater even than Moses. But it turns out, there’s a shadow of doubt in John because not long after this event where he baptizes Jesus and all this amazing stuff happens, he’s thrown into prison for speaking out against the immorality of King Herod. And he just languishes in this prison, maybe as long as a year or two, while Jesus’ ministry takes off. And all these people are coming to see Jesus, and John is just kind of hidden over here in the corner.

And here’s the shadow of doubt:

*When John heard in prison
what Christ was doing, he*

*sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"
Matthew 11:2 (NIV)*

What an odd question for someone who had been so convinced. What happened?ⁱⁱⁱ

John had preached that the corrupt rulers of the nation must get right with God. He spoke of the symbolism of laying the axe at the root of the tree and of a baptism of fire. John believed that the Messiah, Jesus, would turn the world upside down. He expected the Messiah to publicly challenge the corrupt leadership in Jerusalem and ultimately break the Roman hold on Israel. But, nothing like that was

happening, or at least wasn't happening fast enough to suit John.

So, in prison, suffering in gloomy, hopeless circumstances, he begins to doubt, "Things haven't worked as I expected. Was I wrong about Jesus?" So he sends his disciples to question Jesus.

The Bible says that ...

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man

who does not fall away
[who doesn't fall into
unbelief; who doesn't get
so confused by what is
happening, by their
disappointment of their
expectations, that they fall
into the sin of unbelief] *on*
account of me." *Matthew*
11:3-6 (NIV)

In my opinion, this is a fascinating answer. He doesn't answer him directly. "Are you the one to come, or should we wait for someone else?" He doesn't even answer the question. He doesn't say, "Go tell John, 'dude you baptized me. You were there – you saw it!'" He didn't say anything like that.

Instead he graciously says, "look at the evidence." And then, after that, that's

when he makes the statement about John being the greatest man who ever lived ... in spite of his doubt.

Okay, one more example ... and this one is the most amazing to me.

Again, we have to fast forward a bit in time, we're in a little time machine here. It's several weeks after Jesus has risen from the tomb. This time we're up on a mountain again and Jesus is preparing to enter another dimension somehow, because, remember, he's a physical body and he's going back to his Father in Heaven. And there's something different about his body – everybody's already noticed this. So, somehow this is how he is able to exist in two

dimensions. And, he's going back to the Father. He's gathered his inner circle – these twelve guys (minus one, because Judas, at this point, had betrayed him and then killed himself). So, he's got eleven guys with him who've spent three and a half years with him, and he's gathered them together for his final instructions.

Matthew's Gospel describes the scene like this:

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Matthew 28:16 (NIV)

Wow, what a weird sentence! They

worshipped him but some doubted?

Now, to get the full impact of that statement, you have to understand that this worship thing is a very odd thing for Jewish men to do. What they were doing went against everything they were taught and it was contrary to every value that their religious culture had instilled in them. Judaism is a strongly monotheistic religion that affirms one and only one God, invisible, eternal, and omnipresent God and here they're seeing this resurrected Jesus and they are bowing down to him. In their minds, physically, they're bowing down to a *man* and saying "you are God"; giving Him the honor and glory and worship and allegiance which they had been taught belonged to God, the eternal,

invisible, immortal Spirit alone. And, to make it even more weird, Jesus, who Himself is a Jewish rabbi, doesn't do anything to stop it. It's an incredible scene that could only happen in the context of incredible faith.^{iv}

But what else is there, lurking in the corner, besides incredible faith? The shadow of doubt. "They worshipped him, but some doubted."

See, they bow down but in their minds some of them are thinking "this is so bizarre – we see what we see, this guy rose from the dead and I'm worshipping him? This can't really be happening. I shouldn't be doing this, should I? But what else should I be doing? He said he was God in the flesh.

He has to be God in the flesh because only God in the flesh could do this. But I don't have a spiritual category in which to put this whole experience!"

And Jesus' response? No condemnation. Just ... "Hey guys, I'm going back to the Father. What I want you guys to do, with all of your junk, with all of your doubt, with your incredible faith, the shadow of doubt, go tell everybody else about me. Teach them what I've taught you. Make disciples of them. And even though I am leaving, I am with you through the power of the Holy Spirit who will live in you."

Now, if we had time, I could give you a bunch of other examples of people who

showed great faith but also struggled with doubt: Abraham, Sarah, Moses, David, Esther, Jeremiah the Prophet, Elijah the Prophet, Jonah, Thomas - doubting Thomas. Even Jesus, the Son of God in the flesh, in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before his death: "Father, I've never done this before, this dying thing. And I'm afraid of what lies ahead. I'm terrified. Is there another way?"

So many people of great faith had this experience with the shadow of doubt.

But I think you get the picture, so let's move on to the second overarching observation I want to make. Not only is doubt normal ...

Observation #2. Doubt – nagging uncertainty – is actually necessary.

It's necessary in your life and mine if we're going to grow and mature in our faith.

Genesis chapter 32 tells us the amazing story of a man named Jacob. He was one of the founding fathers of the Nation of Israel and he was a character. He was messed up. When you read the story of his life in Genesis, it's obvious that he was a man who had a lot of uncertainties in his life – beginning with himself. A terrible self image and his family was messed up. Even his relationship with God – the man was full of doubt.

The text says that one night at a

particularly low point in his life ...

Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

The man asked him, "What is your name?"

As if he really needed to ask, because we know who this is.

*"Jacob," he answered.
Genesis 32:24-27 (NIV)*

Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." Genesis 32:28 (NIV)

Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?"

As if Jacob really needed to ask!

Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "I

*saw God face to face, and
yet my life was spared.”
Genesis 32:29-30 (NIV)*

I like how another of my favorite writers, Pastor Greg Boyd, describes what was going on in this scene, which is kind of weird and unusual. He writes:

It is clear from the passage that Jacob was wrestling with God, yet the text says that God couldn't overpower him. This leads us to the distinctive feature of God's people—they wrestle with God and God wrestles with them.

Of course, this goes against some who would say we should not wrestle with God; that wrestling with God, having

questions or doubt, is a lack of faith. If something is theologically tough to figure out, we should simply call it a mystery and accept it.

Yet, Boyd writes ...

The authors of the Bible don't throw everything in the mystery pile. We see in the stories of Abraham, Moses, Jacob, Job, and others that people shouldn't be afraid to speak up when it seems that God is acting out of character.

This type of honest communication with God and honest theology about God is what He seeks from His followers. God doesn't want fluff. He doesn't want followers who

don't question what goes on around them. He wants honesty, and He wants us to express ourselves truthfully.

Not only is it ok when we wrestle with God, but we're supposed to wrestle with God. Wrestling with God is a *sign* of faith.^v

And this wrestling ... this grind of nagging uncertainty can actually have a very positive by-product. The Apostle James ... that guy who was up on the mountain that day that Jesus showed them his glory ... wrote:

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials

of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

James 1:2-3 (NIV)

Now, think about this. What do trials do to us? When I go through a trial in my life and I have a worldview that says "God is God; God is good; God is ultimately in control," what do I do? I question. I wonder. It produces nagging uncertainty in me. "Is God really there? Does God really love me, or is this just some Sunday School thing that I learned when I was six years old?" You know, it was good like other things we learned when we were six years old. "Am I going to make it thru this? Is He going to make me strong enough? Can God's promises be trusted?"

See, when we wrestle with things, we get stronger. It's just like it is in the gym. Without resistance, in the gym, without actually taking weights that are hard and trying to curl them (or whatever you do with the weights), it's impossible to build muscle. And it works the same way in our spiritual life. We've got to wrestle if we're going to grow stronger. And I'll say more about this next week but let's move on in the interest of time.

What we've learned so far is that doubt is normal and doubt is necessary if we're going to grow and become strong in our faith. Here's the third observation *which may not naturally follow* from

the first two.

Observation #3. Doubt is not to be taken lightly.

It might seem that I'm saying, "Oh, it's normal, it's necessary, God's not surprised by it ... so don't worry about it." But that's not at all what I'm saying.

Actually, it's not what *I* am not saying – it's what the Bible is not saying, and nowhere more clearly than it does in the third chapter of Hebrews ...

... where we read this warning:

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away

from the living God.

Hebrews 3:12 (NIV)

See, doubt has to be dealt with. It has to be taken seriously. It can't be repeatedly ignored and pushed under the surface. It has to be addressed in such a way that our nagging uncertainties do not turn into hardness of heart and the sin of unbelief that turns away from God.

See, reality is that there will always be a shadow of a doubt until Jesus returns; it's just the dark side that accompanies faith. But until Jesus returns, here's the deal, we're called to *live beyond that doubt*. The doubt doesn't go away, but we live beyond a doubt. And next week, we're going to talk about how to do

that; how to live beyond your doubts.

Conclusion

But for today, the message I want you to walk out of here with is that "God gets it." God gets that doubt is normal and even necessary. And there is grace.

The question is ... do we get it? On a personal level, can we have a little grace towards ourselves in this issue and not beat ourselves up because "I'm struggling with this issue, and I know I shouldn't be struggling because I'm supposed to be a Christian, and Christians are supposed to be happy." Could we give ourselves some grace? But not only that, on a corporate level,

as a church body, could we be a light to other people who have not yet come to faith at all – a light that isn't afraid to shine on the reality that faith really does have a dark side; that there is a shadow of doubt; that you've got to wrestle with God and it's not fun and sometimes it hurts. And sometimes you don't get all the answers you want, but it's part of the deal. And, in the end, it's necessary, and it's okay.

Friends, I hope that's who we are. I hope that's who we'll be as a church, because that's what so many people in this world really need.

Let's pray together.

God, we are so small. We see so

little of reality. From our puny vantage point of eternity and history and wisdom and knowledge, we know nothing compared to You. You see it all from beginning to end. You know what's real and what's not real. There are no questions within You, as the scripture says, "there is no shadow of turning within you." But, God, on this side of eternity, where we live, there is shadow. And we don't always have the answers, and we don't always know what's real or what's not real.

And, God, this morning, some of us are struggling, some of us are bordering on that boundary of questioning, doubting, and

hardness of heart and unbelief that turns away from the Living God. And God, I pray for those who are in that position this morning, I pray that they would not play games, that they would not pretend, "Well, I need to be a Christian and I don't want anybody to know that I struggle." Oh God, deliver us from that pride and arrogance.

God, let our church be a light to the people in our community, to the people we work with, to the people we play golf with, that we are real, and in the real world you have doubts, but you also have faith.

God, help us to be a light to our community. Help us to be the kind

of people who live in that tension and grow from that tension and draw other people to Jesus. It's in his name that we pray, Amen.

Feature – We Are (Kari Jobe)

CLOSING COMMENTS (Rick)

Two things as you leave this morning.

1. Don't forget to turn in your doubt list.

2. Fireworks
 - a. Reminder of why
 - b. Sign up sheet in program
 - c. Please push the overnight tear down shift, we will begin at

midnight on the 4/5

3. We still have volunteer shifts remaining for cashiers, stockers, sales and more. You must be over the age of 12 to work at the tent and over 16 to be a cashier. We especially need those strong of back on the night of the 4th as we inventory and re-pack the trailers. We will be working into the wee hours of the 5th.

Endnotes

ⁱ Ray Pritchard, www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/2005-08-14-If-I-Believe-Why-Do-I-Doubt/

ⁱⁱ Matthew 11:11

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/2004-12-19-A-Question-for-Jesus/>

^{iv} See www.kencollins.com/holydays/holy-06v.htm

^v See whchurch.org/sermons-media/sermon/the-wrestlers