

## The Last Gasp of Doubt

John 20:24-28

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The significance of this passage lies in several factors:

1. It shows Jesus **convincing** a **skeptic** that He really rose from the dead.
  - The other disciples had **told** him. [John 20:24-25]
  - Are there any other **reasons** Thomas should have believed?
    - Jesus had **predicted** He would die and rise. [John 10:17-18]
    - The **scriptures** had said the Messiah would die and rise. [Isaiah 53:4-11]
2. In it, Jesus says those who **believe** without **seeing** Jesus' body are blessed.
  - This is often taken as an endorsement of blind faith.

But...

3. It culminates in the greatest **affirmation** about Jesus in the book: Jesus is **Lord** and **God**.
4. It includes the very **purpose** for which John wrote his Gospel and, in particular, the signs he structured his Gospel around.
  - John's purpose: "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name."
  - Though Jesus says we are **blessed** if we believe without **seeing**, He has given **reasons** for believing: **miraculous signs**.

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Discussion Questions

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1. On what basis did you come to believe Jesus rose from the dead?
2. Have you ever given a non-believer evidence and reasons to believe Jesus rose from the dead? How did it go? What did you learn from the experience?
3. Read Luke 24:36-49. What were the several things Jesus did to prove to the apostles that He had risen physically from the dead? Why do you think He went to such lengths to do so?
4. Some Christians think that faith is believing without evidence, a view known as fideism. Do you think that is the view reflected in John 20, Luke 24, and other Scriptures? Why or why not?
5. Have you ever heard a Christian apologist present a detailed historical case for Jesus' resurrection? If not, consider watching and discussing the following short, animated videos from the work of Dr. William Lane Craig:
  - Did Jesus Rise from the Dead? Part One: The Facts
  - Did Jesus Rise from the Dead? Part Two: The Explanation
6. Does all this talk about Jesus' resurrection stir up your hope for your own future resurrection? What promises of God to be fulfilled in the world to come do you look forward to experiencing the most? Why?