

Encounter Church  
Sunday April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday  
Dealing with Doubt

INTRODUCTION: Jesus knew what was going to happen! He was fully in control as he faced his death in obedience to the Father's will!

He accepted his fate, which included the greatest suffering any human being has ever experienced.

***In your darkest hour, you can rest assured that Jesus understands the emotions you are facing, and he is with you in the depths of your despair.***

***Whatever you face in this life, he has faced it too! And he stands ready to help!***

Not only did he face the excruciating physical death of crucifixion, but he also faced the spiritual death of separation from his Heavenly Father as the weight of our sins pressed upon him.

***Jesus was a fully innocent man, yet he took on the world's guilt. No one has ever borne such a weight!***

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)- "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

***Jesus met our greatest need! Our need for a Savior!***

Jesus was sentenced to death, and ultimately, the nails were hammered through his hands and his feet.

***He hung on the cross in agony, taking the punishment of our sins upon himself!***

And Jesus did all this willingly. He went to the cross out of love!

***And that love-the strongest force in the universe-ultimately propelled Jesus out of the grave and into the glorious light of resurrection!***

***Jesus defeated not only sin and suffering, but also death and the grave, opening up access to the Father for any of us who choose to trust him!***

Hebrews 10:19 (NLT)- "And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus."

BUT THE GREATEST NEWS OF ALL:

***Jesus did not remain on the cross or in the tomb!***

John 20:14-16 (NLT)- “She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. 15 “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?” She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.” 16 “Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”).”

***He walked out of the grave three days after his brutal execution, and he still lives to this day!***

BUT SOME ARE STILL DEALING WITH DOUBT!

John 20:24-25 (NLT)- “One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. 25 They told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

THOMAS WAS SAYING, “I’VE GOT SOME DOUBTS!”

IF WE WERE TO INTERVIEW THOMAS TODAY AND ASK HIM, “WHAT MADE YOU DOUBT?”

***“Believe me, I wanted it to be true! But I had to be sure before I went along with anything like that!”***

***“I had put all my hope in him, only for that hope to be dashed!”***

***Have you ever felt that way. Now you’re dealing with doubt!***

***“I had set aside everything to follow him and had been with him every day for three years!”***

***Have you been disappointed by what you see in your life? Now you’re dealing with doubt!***

***“I’d been ready to give up my life for him and then he was killed in the worst way possible and it seemed it was all for nothing. Jesus mission had failed!***

***Have you ever felt like it was over because of failure? It’s gone, the dream is dead! You trusted him and it still didn’t work out the way you thought!***

***“The other disciples had seen him alive and said he had come back from the dead. They had seen and talked with him. But it seemed too good to be true!***

***Have you ever felt like Jesus was doing it for everyone else but you?***

**ARE YOU DEALING WITH DOUBT!**

***Be careful, be careful! Watch out! Thomas doubt led to an encounter with Jesus Christ the risen Savior!***

John 20:26-28 (NLT)- Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. 27Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!” 28“My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.”

CONCLUSION: Have you ever wished you could actually see, touch, and hear the voice of Jesus in person?

Do you ever wish you could just sit and talk through things with him?

John 16:7 (AMP)- “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you].”

***Do you have your doubts about Jesus? Doubts lead to questions, questions lead to answers and answers are accepted, then doubt has done a good work!***

***The story of Christ’s resurrection is still being told over 2,000 years later because people continue to experience Christ resurrection power in their own lives.***

Ephesians 1:19-20- (NLT)- “I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.”