

Happy Holy Humor Sunday!
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz
Steven, Sara, & Ethan



Sunday, April 7, 2024

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31

People may doubt what you say, but they will believe what you do. —Lewis Cass

The story of Thomas' understandable skepticism concerning the reports of Jesus' resurrection is well known. We call him "Doubting Thomas" when, truth be told, all of the disciples had similar doubts. Thomas had what we call "honest doubts" about the resurrection, as opposed to "blind faith."

It's weird, isn't it, that doubt can be honest and that faith can be blind? Can't faith and doubt both be honest or blind? Theologian J.E. Lesslie Newbigin points out, "One does not learn anything except by believing something, and — conversely — if one doubts everything one learns nothing." At some point, belief has to overcome doubt. Yet, on the other hand, those who believe anything, will believe everything and consequently don't believe anything. They are easily duped and deceived.

Thomas was nobody's fool. But, in the face of overwhelming evidence, faith triumphed over doubt. Thomas' experience reminds us that a little honest doubt goes a long way in removing the scales of blind faith. When we are assailed by persistent doubt, what can we do?

1. **Pray:** Bring your doubts and concerns to God in prayer. Pour out your heart honestly, and then choose to believe that God hears you and is working for your good.
2. **Trust God's Promises:** Spend time in the Scriptures, meditating on God's promises. When doubt arises, counter it with the truth of God's Word.
3. **Lean on your Christian community:** Share your doubts and struggles with fellow believers who can offer support, encouragement and prayer.
4. **Remember God's Faithfulness:** Reflect on past experiences where God has been faithful. Use these as reminders of God's unwavering love and care.

Don't forget that our faith is not in our circumstances or our own strength but in the unchanging character of God. As we choose faith over doubt, we open ourselves to the abundant blessings and the deep, abiding peace that only God can provide.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we confess our doubts and uncertainties to you. Help us to choose faith over doubt, to trust in your perfect plan and to believe in your unwavering love for us. Strengthen our faith, Lord, and lead us into deeper relationship with you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Week of April 7, 2024

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- Sunday:** Luke 1-3
- Monday:** Deuteronomy 23-25
- Tuesday:** Deuteronomy 26-28
- Wednesday:** Deuteronomy 29-31
- Thursday:** Deuteronomy 32-34
- Friday:** Joshua 1-3
- Saturday:** Psalm 33

Verse to Remember

“This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night.”

—Joshua 1:8

April 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

GLIDOGRAM

Theme: Countries of the world. **Letter:** I

Directions: Write a country in row 1 whose name begins with I. On line 2, the “I” should “glide” to the second position, then the third, fourth, fifth and sixth position. Then reverse the order to fifth, fourth, third, second and, finally, first position. Do not use any country twice.

1.	I							
2.		I						
3.			I					
4.				I				
5.					I			
6.						I		
7.					I			
8.				I				
9.			I					
10.		I						
11.	I							

Having trouble thinking of countries for the GLIDOGRAM?

Unscramble the countries in the list below, and then write them on the appropriate lines in the table to the left.

- ITIHA _____
- DELAINC _____
- IWKTUA _____
- EHIPAITO _____
- IMACAJA _____
- MLIA _____
- IIJF _____
- INCAH _____
- ERLDAIN _____
- ALIWMA _____
- EMAVNIT _____

SOLUTION: — Scrambled countries: Haiti, Iceland, Kuwait, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Mali, Fiji, China, Ireland, Malawi, Vietnam. Glidogram: 1. Iceland, Vietnam, Haiti, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Malawi, Kuwait, Mali, China, Fiji, Ireland.