



## "JESUS' DOUBTING FRIENDS"

by Pastor Kevin McBride

*Luke 24:13-35*

### INTRODUCTION:

Flowers, a riot of colors, the joy of spring and new beginnings- flood our senses at Easter. Many celebrate the unofficial ending of winter and new life seen growing from the ground. Other celebrate and rehearse the core of their faith- the truth of the resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God. Others live in a closet of doubt that any of this is true.

- Can I doubt and still be a "Friend of Jesus?"

### BACKGROUND

The long week is over. A week ago Jesus came into Jerusalem with the visible witness of Lazarus raised from the dead exciting the crowds- causing many to proclaim, "God save us!"

Jesus has gone from the height of public acclaim on Palm Sunday, through the dark days of his betrayal, trial, execution and burial. His disciples have waited in the darkness and doubt of Saturday, not knowing what would happen next. Now on Resurrection Sunday, at the first light of day they, and we are confronted with the reality of Jesus' truth- and many of us, even as they did still doubt.

### HOW DO MY DOUBTS AFFECT MY FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS? WHAT CAN BE SOME ANTIDOTES FOR MY DOUBTS?

#### I DOUBT BECAUSE I AM NOT \_\_\_\_\_ TO BELIEVE:

*When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep. ' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble" (Matthew 28:12-14).*

- Do I want to be compelled to believe?

#### I DOUBT BECAUSE I AM NOT \_\_\_\_\_ TO BELIEVE:

*"Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened" (Luke 24:12-14).*

- Am I convinced?

#### I DOUBT BECAUSE I AM NOT \_\_\_\_\_:

*"While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have" (Luke 24:36-39).*

- What will it take to convict me?

### WHAT CAN I DO WHILE I DOUBT?

#### REHEARSE TRUTH IN \_\_\_\_\_:

*"Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread" (Luke 24:35).*

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*"While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet" (Luke 24:36-40).*

#### REHEARSE TRUTH IN \_\_\_\_\_:

*"Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:45-48).*

### THIS EASTER:

What am I willing to do to become closer to Jesus as a friend, and allow him to draw close to me?