

BIG ENOUGH: God Is BIGGER Than My Doubts (Luke 24:36-49)

Introduction.

The memory of this particular snowy morning has lingered with me now for almost twenty years. It's what I consider my first "crisis of faith," that is, a time when questions were more earnest than answers in my head, when chaos was more real than peace in my heart. I had learned of Jesus through a high-school youth organization, announced my faith in Him, and then proceeded to try to "live like a Christian." Now five years later I wasn't sure what that meant, if it meant anything at all. I was full of doubt, not faith. (Reckless Faith, Jo Kadlecsek, WaterBrook Press (Shaw Books): Colorado Springs, page 54.)

Most believers go through at least one crisis of faith, if not more, in their lives. It's a season in life when doubts prevail and faith wavers. What are the causes? How do I survive? Can they be prevented? Am I a bad Christian for having these "doubts?"

You've been there.

- Something unexplainable happens in our life and your left doubting.
- Something tragic happens in society and your left answerless.
- You talk to someone smarter than you and they confuse you causing you to doubt the very essence of the faith.
- You think you have God figured out and *boom* He breaks out of the mold.
- You question if God is real.
- You question if serving God is worth it.
- You hear all of the science and wonder if Christianity is genuine.

BIG IDEA: While spiritual doubts can be crippling, God is big enough to use them to shore up our faith and steady our spiritual walk.

Satan seeks to use doubt to derail a believer's growing fellowship with God. However God is BIG ENOUGH to use those same doubts to enhance your growth.

Contextualize this sermon in the series.

Contextualize Luke 24.

I. Understanding The Causes of Doubt (v. 36-38)

Principle: The enemy uses doubt to cripple our testimony, our spiritual walk, and our fellowship with God.

Illustration: Story told in MABTS Chapel of a pastor that was saved after serving as a successful pastor.

Application: Recognize doubt is not of God, but the tool of the enemy.

II. The Results of Spiritual Doubt (v. 39-43)

A) Doubts cause us to solidify our beliefs.

(For example, taking what you have been taught and making it your own.)

B) Doubts force us to a greater understanding of God.

C) Doubts cause us to put our faith into action.

(Do I really believe what I profess.)

III. Responding To Doubts

A) Resist your doubts.

B) Keep God's word in your heart (v. 44-45)

(Where does faith come from? Scripture says, "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" – Romans 10:17). Dwell on God's truth to you from the Word and the Spirit. This will build up your faith.

C) Remind yourself of God's faithfulness (v. 46-47)

(First, remember that *it is God's character to be faithful*. Second, remember that *God has always been faithful*. God has a track record that you can look at.)

Recall -

- Scriptural stories of faith, perhaps of Abraham or David.
- Stories of God's faithfulness in history or today. People's testimonies that you know.
- How God has been faithful to you. How God has answered your prayers and come through for you in the past.

D) Keep your focus on God, not your obstacles (v.48)

(Stay focused on God, otherwise you will be overwhelmed by the obstacles in your way.

E) Remember faith is a choice, not a feeling

(Feelings you can't always control. But you can control your choices. So stay focused on what you can control. Your feelings will come into alignment with God's truth eventually.)

F) Be around others who will encourage your faith

(*"Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*
24) *And let us be concerned about one another in*

*order to promote love and good works” (**Hebrews 10:23-24**)*

Conclusion.