

## ENCOUNTER #34: John 20:19-31 "THOMAS RESCUED FROM UNBELIEF"

**SHAKEN NOT STIRRED..** may b James Bond want his martinis – but not the way that we want our faith. faith **shaken** means weakened whereas **stirred** means strengthened.

- **RESP CRISIS THAT LEAD 1 OTHER** – many of us crisis hits faith takes hit Child wayward, pray love 1 dies, pray strug marriage gets worse, business bled to build shuttered, promotion doesn't come thru, CRISIS – **faith isn't shaken bc G BLESSED soft Era of unbelief more happy push ur faith off cliff.** – **WORLD WON'T HELP U BELIEVE**

- Disappointment, frustration, devastating – IT'S NOT THE CRISIS/RESPONSE  
**MP: While a crisis can lead to a shaking and weakening of your faith, it's also possible for a crisis to lead to a stirring and a strengthening of your faith.**  
Every mighty man or woman of God has gone through a crisis that has shaken faith.  
- 1 cons. –SHAKING LED TO A STIRRING STRENGTH WILLING WALK PATH

**CRISIS** DISCIPLES HIDING – REVEALS HIMSELF – Apostolic Comm- Indwell

- TOM MISSING - **LEFT OUT - LET DOWN** byond circ FEEL Crisis of faith. GOD? PLAYED PROCLIV PESSIMISM: **Let us go that we may die with him – Lord we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way, #doubtingthomas**  
I'm optimist – optimism isn't same thing as faith – ur optimism won't sustain run OUT

**REFLEX** Determination disbelieve: **V.25 UNLESS...I WILL NEVER BELIEVE**

- EXCESSIVE - REFLEX REVEALED DEEPER ISSUE  
Didn't make sense: everything Jesus did, said, OVERWHELMING WITNESS (trusted)  
**Sometimes it's only crisis that reveals the deeper issues of your faith. Heart**  
Uncertainty, fear and anxiety, hopelessness, helplessness, dread, panic - **CONTROL**  
Marked defiance. Resistance. Extortion - Demands. I wont' unless. **PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE**

- Can't control circumstances **CONTROL the one who can - *faith***  
Faith is the living declaration that we are not in control. Who needs faith if you're in control? The stripping away of our control is intended to lead us to stronger faith.  
- Faith currency of heaven – mode of operation – if your faith is shaken and do you have? If you don't have faith how do you trust? Endure difficulty? Anchor? pray? **IN JESUS NAME – I CAN ONLY ASK BC OF HIM**

**DECISION** JESUS MADE HIM WAIT – 8 days - 8 yrs, **691,200 sec felt every one....**

**PAINFUL TENSION** – God where are you, why me, **SILENCE / FELT ABSENCE**

- **THING:** Jesus could have revealed Himself right away – **WAIT...WAIT...**  
Wait.... **SILENCE / ABSENCE** – ORPHANED, FORGOTTEN – **CRITICAL MOMENT**

**The decisions you make in the time of waiting will determine the outcome.**

- **DECISION** – think, pray, ponder, remember, sp drawing – **WITH DISCIPLES**  
Board game spinner -didn't feel like it – emotions, self-pity, discouragement **CHOICE**  
- **Slows the spinning down choosing a direction...**

It's easy to choose the right thing when you feel like it. It's worship to choose the right thing when you don't feel like it. **NOT TO MENTION IT'S WISE – NO MATTER WHAT**

## **REVELATION WHEN JESUS WAS READY: IT WAS HIS TIME**

He showed up – He came through the door – **MOTIONED THOMAS**

- Gives him what he asks for – put your finger here – **HUMBLING MOMENT**

Meets him in his skepticism and stretches out his wounds Jesus loves the skeptic.

- o THOMAS **ANSWERED** – **NO NEED - I DON'T NEED THAT**

**MOST STIRRED STATEMENTS EVER** – “**MY LORD AND MY GOD**” – **that's where**

- Greatest exclamations of faith – **CLARITY THAT EMERGES FROM CONFUSION**
- **JESUS IS GOD** – no argument – no rebuffing Thomas – stmt hung for 2000 yrs

**LORD: lord..lord... surrender – release control – yielding to God instead fighting against**

## **STRENGTHENING**

“Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

**STRENGTHENING OF HIS FAITH** – based on conditions to based on with resurrection

- **UNLESS YOU.....**: I'm out, done, I need the miracle, job, money, healing, relationship, **THE RESURRECTION** – **miracle dependent faith that needs to be constantly sustained by the next thing that God does** – **IS NOT MATURE FAITH**

**Your faith in God's only as good as the last thing He's done for you.**

Resort to Threats, withholding, anger, disobedience – **BC WORKS IN WORLD fr. fam.**

**GOD DID ALL HE NEEDED TO DO FOR YOU WHEN HE RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD**

- o **FAITH IS MEANT ROOTED IN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST**

**I don't know if he will burst thru the door, answer prayer, miracle – HE IS RISEN**

God amazing things – the rez, God isn't doing anything – rez, spiritually on top world – rez, walking through valley of despair – the rez, all lined up – rez, all falling apart - rez, richer poorer, sickness health, until death do us part **IT'S THE RESURRECTION**

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Resurrection: Not a construct, concept, or a philosophy it's a reality**

**Means In your crisis: u have living savior who wants helps you, guide you, strengthen you, preserve you, faithfully see you home to heaven. LET HIM**