**Reflections-04-23-17**

Doubt, Faith, Making a Difference, Being Sent

*“What do you do with your doubt?”*

John 20:19-31

1. Have there been times in your life where you have struggled to believe in God or perhaps in yourself? What helped you in your struggle?
2. Thomas didn’t believe his friends when they said that they had seen the risen Lord. He wanted proof. He wanted to touch and see the holes in Jesus’ hands and side. Does this remind you of yourself or someone that you know?
3. Pastor Glen spoke about the three stages of Faith: Received Faith (imitating actions) , Searching Faith (asking the question “Is that what I believe?”) and Owned Faith (which only occurs after one has searched). What stage would you see yourself? Why?
4. Do you agree with the following statement, “Faith is not really about what we believe, but what difference it makes in our lives, that we believe”?
5. The resurrected Jesus says to the disciples, “As the father has sent me, so I send you”. What stops you from sharing the good news of Jesus with others?
6. Can “doubt” produce positive things in your life? Do you have an example?

**John 20:19-3**

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin\*), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ 27Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ 28Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ 29Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31But these are written so that you may come to believe\* that Jesus is the Messiah,\* the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.