



"UNLESS I SEE  
 IN HIS HANDS  
 THE PRINTS  
 OF THE NAILS  
 AND PLACE  
 MY FINGER  
 IN THE MARK  
 OF THE NAILS  
 AND MY HAND  
 IN HIS SIDE,  
 I WILL NOT  
 BELIEVE"  
 HE SAID TO THEM.

4/28/19 Jn. 20: 19-31 & Acts 5:12-16

[www.theark1.com](http://www.theark1.com)

Connie May © 3/19/19

Fr. Robert Beck ([subscription](#))

Drawing with permission by Fr. Robert Beck

[More Fr. Beck](#) (With permission)

Stone, Naomi. [A Portal of Grace](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Why Faith feels like Doubt and Darkness](#)

[New Melleray Abby Homilies](#) 7/13/18

[Doubting Thomas](#)

[When Doubt Bears Fruit](#)

#### ENTERING THE SCENE:

We could all call Thomas our twin as he gives us permission to doubt. Doubt is often the recognition that we don't have enough information to come to a definite decision about something or someone. It has been said that Doubt is the one thing that helps keep faith from becoming fanaticism.

This forces us deep inside our core. What do we really believe? What proof do we need to settle on something as truth? Like Thomas, we cannot borrow someone else's truth. We need to risk being hurt or fooled and try once again. If we have others around us that will risk our wrath and invite us to try again, we like Thomas, will have another chance to live in hope and love. So let us join the disciples and radiate our truth in such a way that the Thomas' in our lives can open themselves to try again and trust.

#### Jn. 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup> 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.**" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he **showed** them his hands and his side. Then the disciples **rejoiced** when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "**Peace be with you.** As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he **breathed** on them and said to them, "Receive the **Holy Spirit.**" <sup>23</sup> If you **forgive** the sins of any, they are **forgiven** them; if you **retain** the sins of any, they are **retained.**" <sup>24</sup> But **Thomas** (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So 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.**" <sup>26</sup> 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.**" <sup>27</sup> Then 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." <sup>28</sup> **Thomas** answered him, "**My Lord and my God!**" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you **believed** because you have seen me? **Blessed** are those who have not seen and yet have come to **believe.**" <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other **signs** in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But 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.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** The one constant thing that Jesus asks me to never doubt is God's unconditional love. How am I doing with this challenge?

**PRAYER:** "Touch my wound," you say. / Trembling with dread, / I stretch out my hand. / I fall inside you, / and universes open in me. / I see that your wound / is my own, is everyone's / and it is limitless. / Yet you wrap yourself around it / so tenderly. / You become the shore / of that restless ocean. / I am too small to understand, / but I say, "My Lord, my God." / I am weeping in relief. / This is all the faith I have, / and all I need. Amen.

(Mary Vineyard: Lubec, Maine)