

**NOT SURE I BUY THAT**  
**PSALM 146:1-10; MATTHEW 28:16-20; MARK 9:14-24;**  
**1SAMUEL 13:5-14; PSALM 13:1-6**  
**2026-04-12**

We've been journeying to the cross with Jesus, focused on *Psalms for Lent*. I want you to have a look at the day-by-day events of Holy Week. **On the Monday** of Holy Week, Jesus confronted hypocrisy straight up. On the steps of the temple in the centre of worship He went after the merchants and money changers and drove them out in righteous anger. That's us: sometimes doing harm but calling it good. How hypocritical are we? Do we proclaim 1 thing with our words then do the opposite with our deeds? Yup! As Jesus cleansed the temple, so He cleanses us.

The next day, **Tuesday**, the chief priest and scribes called Jesus out about the temple clearing and tried to catch Him in a lie. But since He never lied, that didn't accomplish much. They questioned His authority. He said He would answer them if they told Him whether John's baptism was from heaven or from men. Then He told two parables, that revealed Himself as the Messiah, the Son of God. But people wouldn't believe. One was about the son who said he would do what his father asked but didn't; the other said he wouldn't do what his father asked but did. The 2nd parable was of the tenants who beat and killed various messengers of the landowner, and who finally killed the son of the landowner when he came to claim what was rightfully his. "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone" (Ps. 118:22). It was a picture of the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus is able to overcome our going astray; He can overcome our failures.

**On Wednesday** Jesus' enemies planned His death, conscripting Judas for 30 pieces of silver. Little did they know that Jesus had been planning His Jerusalem journey infinitely longer. Mary had even anointed Him with oil for His burial. Amazing how God turns preparation for evil into the fulfillment of His own plan for salvation to all who believe in Jesus as Saviour and Lord!

**On Thursday** there was already the foreshadowing of Jesus' selfless sacrifice by offering up the bread and the wine as His own body and blood, shed for the forgiveness of our sins—significant because Jesus as the Lamb of God is the ultimate fulfillment in the New Testament of the sacrifices God ordained in the Old Testament as necessary atonement for sin. It's a selfless sacrifice for us so we are able to have and enjoy life everlasting! (+ the foot washing of the disciples.)

**Friday** was a complicated day but in the end it was all about righteousness: restoring something to its original right state. After all the wicked mistreatment of Jesus, our sins were nailed to the cross with Him. He spoke His last words and died. At that time the temple curtain was torn in 2—the veil that separated God's earthly presence from the rest of the temple. It showed that we were separated from God by our sin. Through the death of Jesus our great high

priest, we were brought back into a right relationship—restored to wholeness—with God the Father. We were made righteous, because Jesus is righteous and acted on our behalf.

The **Saturday** between Good Friday and Easter Sunday is a hard a day. We struggle with it, spending a lot of time remembering. Imagine how difficult it must've been for the disciples before they knew what would transform us all on that first resurrection Sunday! The loved ones of Jesus gathered in sorrow, heartbroken that He was dead and entombed. Overcome with grief, they had forgotten the promise that three days later He would rise. But even through this dark day that seemed without a shred of hope, God's steadfast love and deliverance were on display. The Light of the World had overcome all darkness, though that wasn't yet evident. What darkness blocks your remembering? Whatever it is, it's already been overcome by Jesus and His death on the cross. Through Jesus, victory is yours! Because Saturday ended and Sunday arrived with the startling, unsettling and joyous news that the tomb was empty. Jesus was alive. "He is not here; He is risen, just as He said! **Easter itself is a message of unsurpassed joy.**

**You've heard people say "just watch me"**. It was made famous here when Pierre Trudeau said it in response to the press' disbelief that he would invoke martial law during the FLQ crisis in Quebec after Pierre Laporte was murdered in 1971. His son, Justin, used the same expression when questioned whether or not he could successfully challenge then PM Stephen Harper. The lead up to the expression always has the tone of: "You can't be serious" or "There's no way you can...!" Though Jesus didn't express it the same way, He was very clear: "**Keep your eyes on Me.** Believe in Me. Here's what I'm going to do. Here's how I will achieve it. and, My dear child, it's all for You because I love you." In short, "Just watch me." **Our lives are forever different and forever with hope because we watch Jesus** and follow Him with all our heart.

Think of **Psalm 146** in relationship with the Sunday of the first Easter. It's the first of the last five psalms and they are all "hallelujah" psalms. "Hallelujah" = "Praise the Lord!" At Christmas the hallelujah of the angels proclaimed Christ's birth. In this Easter season, our hallelujahs proclaim His resurrection—**His once-for-all victory over** sin, death, the devil and hell. Have you been ready, in fact have you burst out in joy and exuberance? **To sing hallelujah is to call on God's Name because** He has come to us by His very own grace and mercy and saved us. Hallelujah is an exclamation mark of praise because we're forgiven and redeemed—reclaimed by God Himself! Does anyone feel like singing hallelujah? This is the high point of our Christian faith, hands down (up).

But what about the days following the Resurrection? **Smack dab in the centre of the resurrection, catch this:**

*"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted"—just as Jesus was telling them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy*

*Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:16-20)*

Did you hear that? Jesus is talking to the disciples and “some doubted”. **He’s right there in front of them and “some doubted”!** Do you ever doubt? What if? What about this? Why is this happening? Where’s God when...? No doubt about it—at 1 time or another, we all have doubts. **The question is what do we do with them?**

**That’s not the only time in the resurrection story that doubt rears its ugly head.** While the disciples were huddled up for fear their plight would be the same as Jesus’, He appeared in their midst—even though the doors were locked. They were terrified, thinking He was a ghost. To dispel that notion, He asked for something to eat, and promptly downed some fish.

He didn’t just say, “*Peace be with you.*” He added, “***Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and feet. It is I myself! Touch Me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.***” (Luke 24:36-43)

We can point a derogatory finger at Thomas, who wasn’t there, and refused to believe Jesus had appeared to the other disciples, “*Until he saw with his own eyes and put his finger in the holes in Jesus’ hand and side.*” But nearly **all** the disciples had their doubts about the certainty of Jesus’ return. When the Mary’s and Salome went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body but found the stone rolled back, an angel told them “He’s not here; He’s risen just as He said. Now go, tell the disciples.” They did, but the disciples thought their talk “was nonsense”.

**So, if the disciples**, who had been with Jesus for 3½ years and were eyewitnesses to the resurrection could have their doubts, **so can you and I.** We may not like it; we may not be comfortable with it; we may be ashamed to admit it; we may try to hide it or even deny it—even to yourself. But **God didn’t turn His back on the disciples and He won’t turn His back on you or me.**

I love the passage in **Mark 9**. Jesus, Peter, James and John had just come down from a literal mountain-top experience—the Transfiguration—where Jesus had met and talked with Moses and Elijah about His upcoming departure and God the Father spoke right into their midst: “This is My Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!” But **it took no time at all to return to the nitty-gritty of life.** They’d just arrived back from the mountain and they returned to trouble. A father of a boy with epilepsy had asked the disciples to heal his son but they could not. So the father pleaded to Jesus, “But **if You can** do anything, take pity on us and help us.” You can hear the upset in Jesus’ answer: “If You can? Everything is possible for him who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “**I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!**” That so beautifully captures our hearts, doesn’t it! “Help me with my unbelief, because I really (want to) believe!”

**King Saul is another giant of the Bible with a faith problem.** (1 Samuel 13) Saul, his army confronted by a vastly superior Philistine army, waited seven days for the prophet Samuel to come and inquire of the Lord. The situation was bad. Men were deserting, running off, crossing the river, hiding in caves, quaking. Saul felt compelled to do something. He took it upon himself to offer up the burnt offering. Bad move. It wasn't his to offer. He didn't trust God. He doubted God would come through; he doubted Samuel, God's prophet, would come through. **Because of his doubt, Saul's kingdom would not endure, as it would have, had he kept faith.**

**In Psalm 13 David prays his doubts with such honesty** it makes us uncomfortable. It's one thing to think them, but to say them out loud and to say them to God is nervy. David was being pursued by King Saul and had almost been killed by him on several occasions. David suffered. God seemed far away. David didn't feel God's presence or sense His power. Can you relate?

But this wasn't nervy. **Though we may feel expressing doubt means doubting God Himself, it's not.** David's questioning was an honest response to his situation. Doubt might leave us asking questions, **but doubt isn't lacking faith; doubt is refusing to give up on God.**

Just look at **Thomas** (John 20). He's tagged "doubting Thomas", yet look at this. **Jesus heard Thomas' concern and came back, just for Thomas.** He didn't need to come back a second time for the other disciples. And when He did come back, you could see **Thomas' faith had been there all along.** Thomas is the one who accords Jesus the highest praise in the entire Bible: **"My Lord and My God!"**

**The thing is, Jesus knew that was Thomas' heart all along**—even when Thomas himself probably didn't. But Jesus isn't going to hang you out to dry. He's there for you; He's here for you. He loves you—doubts and all. You don't need to be ashamed when doubts arise. But neither should you let them sit and fester. **Take your doubts to God,** just like David did and tell Him how you're struggling. He already knows, but He will honour your honest heart. And He might very well push you out of your comfort zone to grow you into trusting Him and loving Him even more.

What can you take to your community this week? People will be moved by your transparency and reflect on the openness of your relationship with God and your freedom to express your vulnerability. They will come face to face with a God who loves and doesn't condemn. Try it and see. And tell them to "Just watch... Jesus"!