**Some Doubted**

**Matthew 28:16-20**

**Matthew 28:16-20** -- “(16) Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. (17) And when they saw him, they worshipped him: **but some doubted**. (18) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

The meeting between the risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and His disciples must have been a blessed time. They went from fear to rejoicing – from disappointment to rejoicing – from despair to rejoicing.

Among those who gathered at that appointed place and at that appointed time were those who worshipped the risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. But, present also were some who the Scriptures say, “doubted”. (**Matthew 28:17**)

The word doubted may be defined as: to waver in opinion - to hesitate.

It seems that there will always be present within us that thing called **doubt**. It seems that there will always be present with us those who though they are true believers are at that moment in time doubting. It may even be true in our life. At one moment we may be as the Gentile centurion with great faith and the next we will be like Peter who, though he walked on water, yet he doubted.

**Matthew 14:28-31** -- “(28) And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. (29) And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. (30) But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. (31) And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, **wherefore didst thou doubt**?”

It is even possible that at times we may face doubt mixed with our worship. At times we may face doubt mixed with our service. At times we may face doubt mixed with our assurance of salvation. At times we may face doubt mixed with our calling.

Doubt, it seems, will be always with us.

We are often like the father of the boy who had a demon who expressed himself to our Lord by saying, “Lord I believe, help, Thou mine unbelief.” (**Mark 9:24**)

What are some of the things which cause doubt to arise in our life?

**First**: Sin is one of its causes. Sin brings darkness upon our lighted souls – darkness begins to drive the light away – as the light begins to fade, darkness brings with it the awfulness of doubt.

**Second**: Carelessness or anxiety with the things of this world may lead to doubt over the things of God.

**Luke 12:29-30** – “(29) And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of **doubtful mind**. (30) For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.”

**Third**: Disobedience or the neglect of that which we know to be our responsibility will oftentimes produce doubt as to our relationship to our God.

We question, “If I am a true Christian then how is it that I find myself in this condition?”

**Fourth**: Times of severe trials and temptations will oftentimes bring with them doubt that adds to the trial – doubt that is used to further defeat us in our walk with our God – doubt as to whether or not God will ever come to our rescue or ever deliver us from our present situation.

Like David of old, we question, “Where is God?”

**Fifth**: The constant onslaught of the world oftentimes brings with it doubt over the things of God -- especially those things which calls for our sacrificial living.

**Psalm 73:1-24** – “(1) Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart. (2) But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. (3**) For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked**. (4) For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. (5) **They are not in trouble as other men**; neither are they plagued like other men. (6) Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. (7) Their eyes stand out with fatness: **they have more than heart could wish**. (8) They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. (9) They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. (10) Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. (11) And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? (12) **Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches**. (13) **Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain**, and washed my hands in innocency. (14) **For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning**. (15) If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. (16) When I thought to know this, **it was too painful for me**; (17) Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. (18) **Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction**. (19) How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. (20) As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, **thou shalt despise their image**. (21) Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins. (22) So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee. (23) Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. (24) Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.”

**Sixth**: Our text indicates that ignorance is also one of the causes of doubt. Perhaps some among those gathered to worship the risen Lord doubted because they questioned in their minds whether or not he was who he said he was.

**Note**: When the resurrected Lord sent His servants to tell His disciples He was risen, the Scriptures record:

**Luke 24:11** – “And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.”

But in **Matthew 28:18** the Scriptures says, “And Jesus **came** and spake unto them …”

Oftentimes when we are doubting Jesus comes near to us to help us to hear what He has to say to us.

A. Our text indicates that they were instructed concerning the sovereignty and omnipotence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 28:18** -- “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth**.”

Perhaps some doubted His sovereignty. Was He truly who He said He was? Could He actually do what He has said He would do?

B. Our text indicates that they were given what is often called the great commission. As they were going about their daily lives they were to live as though they were under a divine mandate to evangelize the whole world.

**Matthew 28:19-20** - “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Perhaps some doubted His comission! Did He really mean all nations - the whole world? Did He really mean every creature? Did He really mean every ethnic group? every tongue? every family?

C. Out text indicates that our risen Lord promised to be with them as they obeyed His great commission.

**Matthew 28:20** -- “... lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Perhaps some doubted His promise! Did He really mean He would never leave us nor forsake us?

Did He really mean He would be with us at all times and in all places?

Does He really have the ability to be with us?

Does He really want to be with me since I have so many weaknesses and failures? I know He knows me – does He really want to be with me?

**Seven**: Another text in the book of Matthew indicates that fear is also a contributor to doubt. We have already read it once – let us look at it one more time.

**Matthew 14:28-31** -- “And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, **he was afraid**; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, **wherefore didst thou doubt**”

**Matthew 28:17** and **Matthew 14:31** are the only two times this word translated into our English word **doubt** is found in the Scriptures.

**Fear is a great contributor to doubt.** Fear of the unknown. Fear of that which we cannot control. Fear of which is greater than us. Fear of failure even in the midst of success. Fear of being looked upon as being different than all the rest.

**Finally**: Another thought about this **word doubt is that it may also be translated to hesitate**.

It is too often common with us that we are a people who come right up to a situation where we will be called upon to live by faith or to make some sacrifice we believe will be too great and then we hesitate.

Hesitation as it relates to doubting may be seen in this way: We take out our scales and put every thing we know to be good on one side and everything we think will be bad on the other side and make a decision upon those factors instead of obeying that which is clearly revealed to us in God's word.

Hesitation as it relates to doubt will make us lean upon our own understanding rather than upon Thus saith the Lord.

Hesitation is doubt when we fear to go beyond that which we have already ventured and which is well known to us. Faith takes us into the raging sea and as long as we keep our eyes upon the ever present Lord we can walk on water.

Let us go forth looking upon Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

**Hebrews 12:1-3** – “(1) Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us, (2) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”