

# SAINTS & SINNERS



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*SUMMER 2023 SERMON SERIES*  
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**Thomas: Doubting but Believing in God**  
*Part 11 of 12*

## Mark 3:13-19 NIV – Thomas, Disciple of Jesus

<sup>13</sup> Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup> He appointed *twelve* that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach <sup>15</sup> and to have authority to drive out demons. <sup>16</sup> These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), <sup>17</sup> James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the nickname “sons of thunder”), <sup>18</sup> Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, **Thomas**, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot <sup>19</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.





*The Chosen*



# John 11:12-16

vs. 16

*"Thomas, nicknamed the Twin,  
said to his fellow disciples,  
"Let's go, too—and die with Jesus."*

***JOHN 20:19-29***

## John 20:24-29 NLT

<sup>24</sup> One of the twelve disciples, **Thomas** (nicknamed *the Twin*), **was not with the others when Jesus came.**

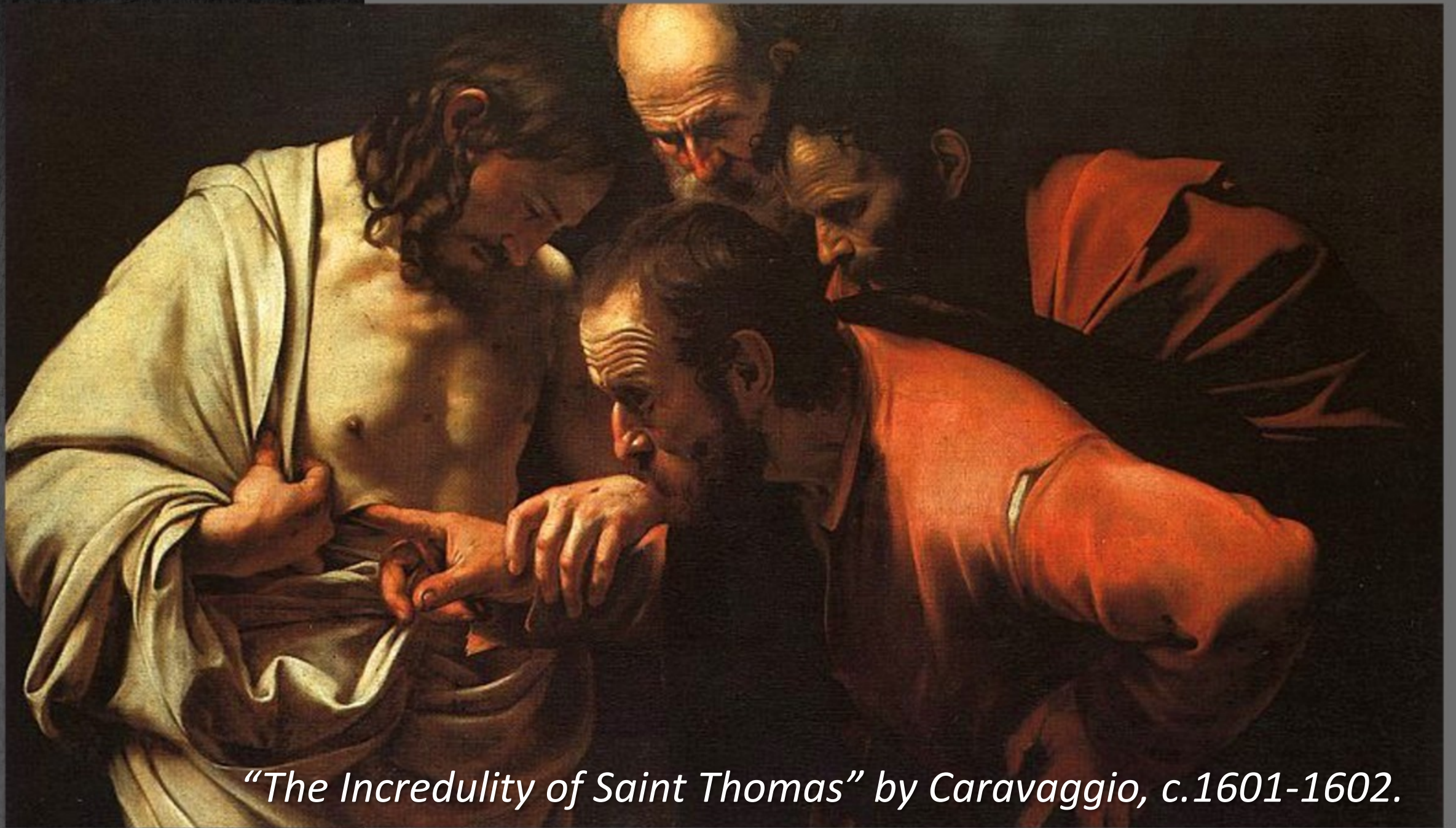
<sup>25</sup> They told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”



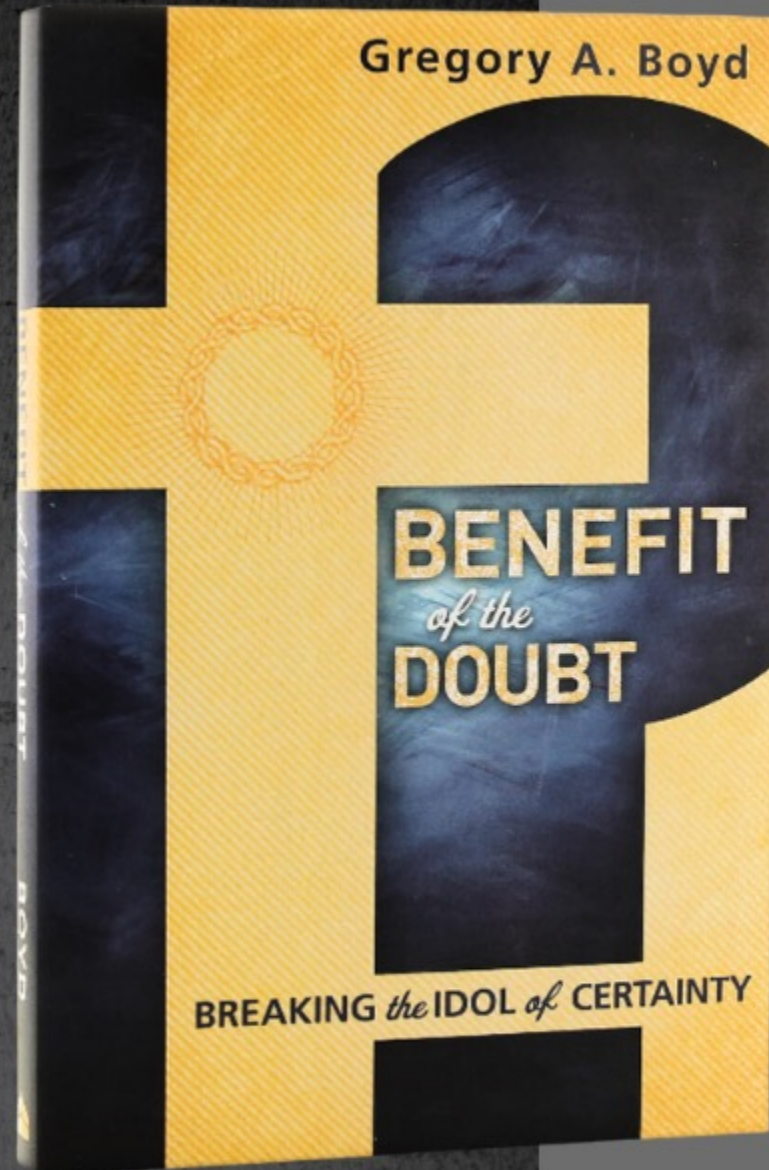
<sup>26</sup> Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time **Thomas was with them**. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”





*"The Incredulity of Saint Thomas" by Caravaggio, c.1601-1602.*





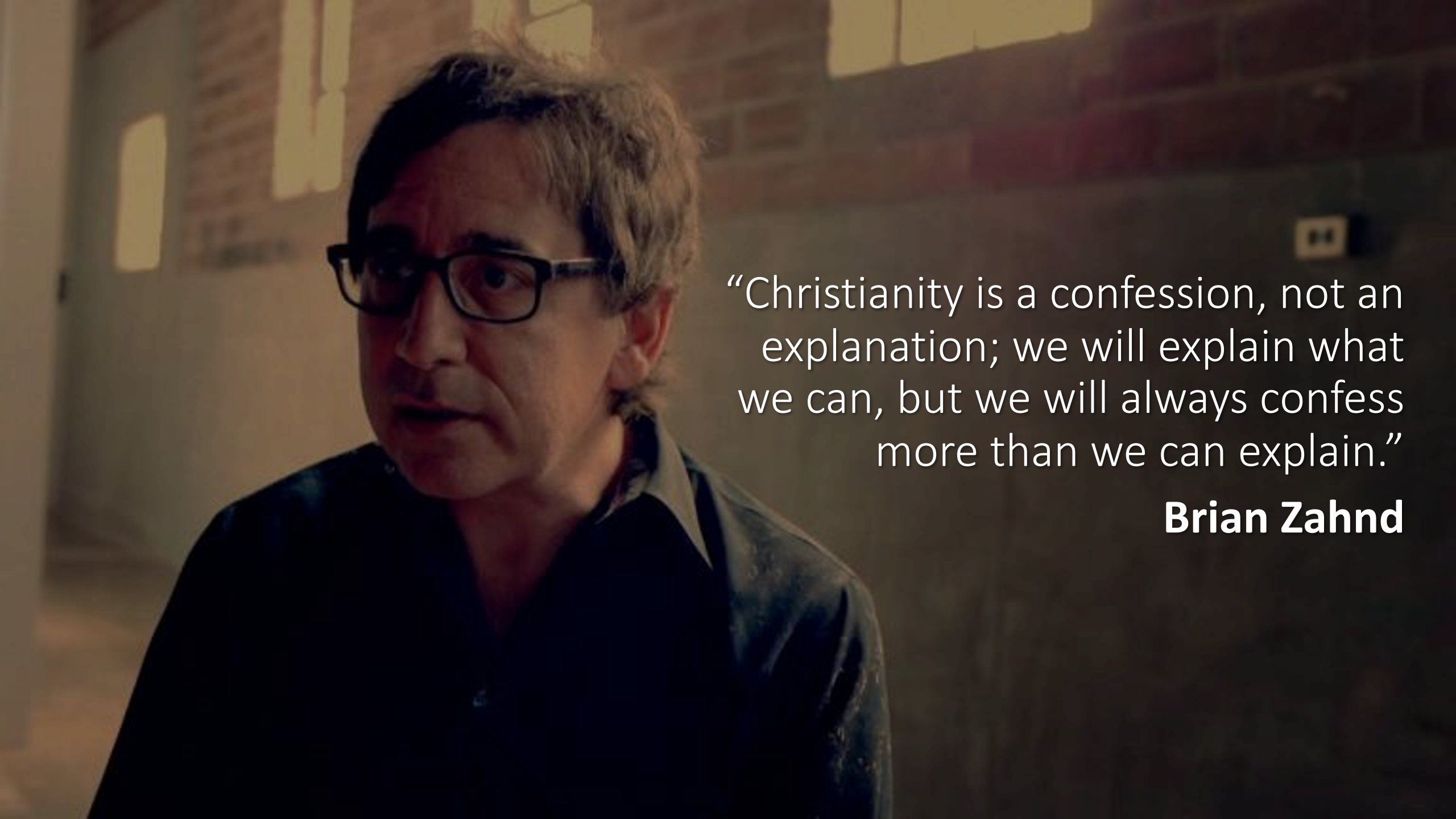
“ While the certainty-seeking model of faith is *psychological* in nature, the biblical concept is *covenantal*. That is, while the former is focused on a person's mental state, the latter is focused on how a person demonstrates a commitment by how they live.”

**Greg Boyd**, *Benefit of the Doubt: Breaking the Idol of Certainty*

## John 20:28-29 NIV

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

A medium shot of Brian Zahnd, a man with dark, wavy hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to his left with a thoughtful expression. The background is a brick wall with some light-colored rectangular panels or windows. The lighting is warm and slightly dim.

“Christianity is a confession, not an explanation; we will explain what we can, but we will always confess more than we can explain.”

**Brian Zahnd**



“When they saw him, they worshiped  
him—but some of them doubted!”

**Matthew 28:17 NIV**

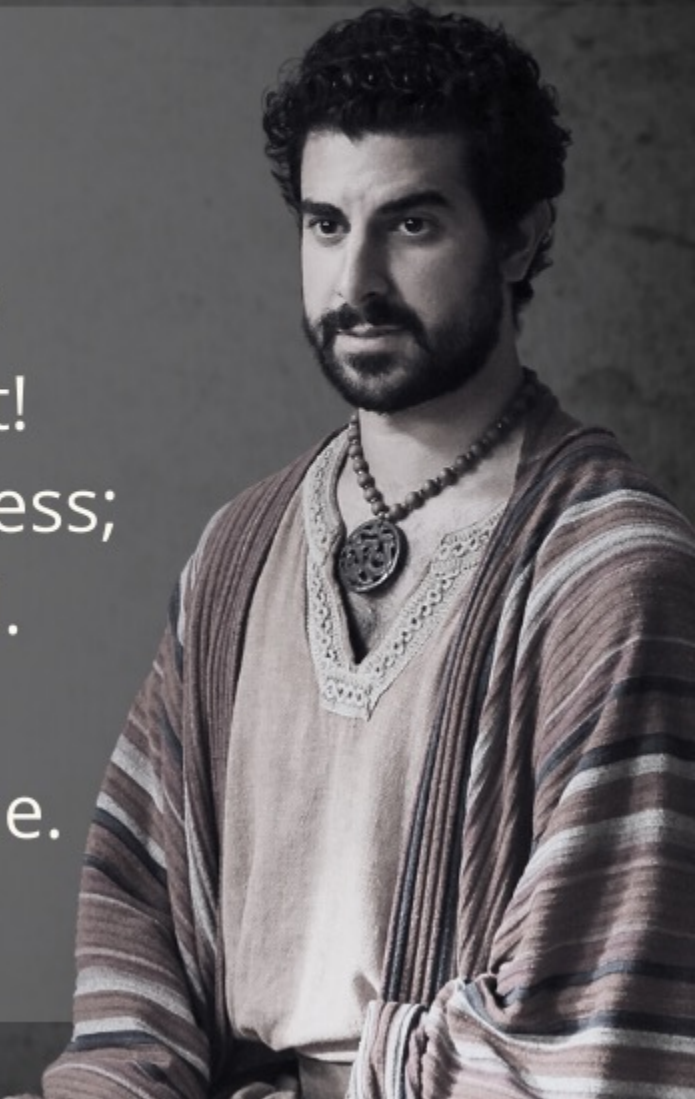
“You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, **you trust him**; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.”

**1 Peter 1:8-9 NLT**

# LESSONS FROM THOMAS

## What can we learn from Thomas's story?

- We are just like Thomas; *we* are his twin!
- Faith (covenant trust) doesn't go against evidence and reason, but it does require us to go beyond it!
- Doubt is normal and part of the discipleship process; it's an opportunity for deepening our faith in God.
- Stay with the church, bring your questions and doubts, and Jesus will reveal himself to you in time.
- Thomas was both a saint *and* a sinner.



**Doubting but Believing in God**

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**Questions for reflection and response:**



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**Questions for reflection and response:**

**1. Can you see yourself in Thomas? If so, how?**

# **Doubting but Believing in God**

# **SAINTS & SINNERS**

**Questions for reflection and response:**

- 1. Can you see yourself in Thomas? If so, how?**
- 2. Are you staying with the church? Are you moving toward belief or unbelief in your daily life?**

# **Doubting but Believing in God**

# **SAINTS & SINNERS**

## **Questions for reflection and response:**

- 1. Can you see yourself in Thomas? If so, how?**
- 2. Are you staying with the church? Are you moving toward belief or unbelief in your daily life?**
- 3. Do you have questions or doubts? If so, how is the Spirit inviting you to deepen your faith in Christ?**



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