

Did Jesus Doubt?

I Doubt It week 4

by Chris Famisaran

Y'all sound so great amen. By the way, how many of you felt like you were on an emotional roller coaster? With for Ginger? Marissa, that was some excellent storytelling. Ah.

Let's pray. Father in heaven, Lord, we thank you for the opportunity to gather together as we continue in our series on "I Doubt It." Lord, help us overcome our doubt to be faithful to you in Jesus name.

And then there are three young men who are about to become fathers for the first time they were all waiting in the waiting room. And nervously waiting moving their feet looking around. You know, this was their first time they had no idea what was about to happen, other than they knew they would become fathers. But what did that really mean? They had an idea of what it meant to be a father. And they were excited. They were scared. But they were really looking forward to it. Finally, one of the nurses comes out. She informs the first Father, you're having twins and the father. He said, That's amazing. Thank you so much. I play for the Minnesota Twins and the rest of the dads that came up they high fived them slap them on the back and they said yes. Congratulations. About 20 minutes later, the nurse comes back out and she says to the second father, congratulations. It's a boy. A girl and another boy. Triplets. Oh, okay, well, how fortuitous. I work for 3-M. The third father starts to become a little queasy, he puts his hand on the wall. And all of a sudden he just falls and he faints. After a while he comes to and he wakes up. And they say Man, are you okay? Yeah, but I worked for SevenUp! I'm glad it made you laugh. It makes me feel a little bit better up here. Seven kids! Have mercy. Now the new father realized that.... he knew he would have responsibilities and expectations. But he didn't realize that they would skyrocket so high is what he thoughts, perceptions, expectations.

You know, expectations that can help us thrive and at times that can also crush us Amen. Expectations can help us guide us into the future. But if our expectations are great if they are huge and big, sometimes they can become a burden. Los Angeles Lakers, Chicago Bulls, New York Yankees, Tiger Woods, Michael Phelps,

Lewis Hamilton. What do all these teams and athletes have in common? They won and they didn't just win. They basically had dynasties. Right? How many titles do the Lakers have? Oh, Mercy. 17 Thank you. All right. 17. How many? What if... we don't talk about the Celtics here. Lord forgive me. Those of you who grew up in the 80s and watched the Lakers with Magic and Kareem you know how far that goes is deep. Right Chicago Bulls. They won six, three, twice, Three-Petes. Tiger Woods I lost count how many times he won. But you know the story of him is just incredible. Golf wise. The greatest Michael Phelps how many gold medals that he win in one Olympics? Oh, finally Lewis Hamilton. Anybody? No, not no. Lewis Hamilton is why I expected more hands Ken Lewis Hamilton is the greatest Well, one of the greatest Formula One drivers ever, right. So every time these teams are these athletes won though OK, you won it. What's the next expectation? Can you do it again? And over time you You made the first title or two. Okay, cool. The first one is probably the easiest. But the second, the third, the fourth, the fifth. Gets to become more pressured more expectations. Have you ever felt something? Well, have you ever felt faced something so big that it was scary? Do you want to avoid it? Did you want to rush with to it with gusto? Maybe it depends, right?

Well, let's go to let's go to Luke 22. Luke 22. We find ourselves after Jesus and the disciples. Last week we read the Last Supper. And after the Last Supper, Jesus wants to go on a walk. He wants to go to the garden of the Gethsemane. Now Luke doesn't mention the Garden of Gethsemane. But Matthew and Mark do. John also alludes to it, that he and the disciples went to a garden that Jesus frequented. Okay, let's read this. Luke 22, verse 39.

All right, we all there. All right. So Jesus went down as what? Usual, it's a place that he frequented to the Mount of Olives and his disciples followed Him. On reaching the place. He said to them, pray that you will not fall into temptation. He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, Father, if you're willing, take this cup from me. Yet not my will, but who's yours be done. And angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened him and been in what anguish he prayed more earnestly in His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Side note, it's interesting. Now Luke was what was his profession? He was a doctor, how interesting. He added that little other tidbit in there that the other

disciples sorry, the other gospel writers didn't. And in verse 45, he says, when he rose from prayer, he went back to the disciples, he found them what? Sleeping, exhausted from sorrow, why are you sleeping, he asked them, get up and pray so that you will not fall in to temptation. So again, all the Gospel accounts allude to this scene, some more so than others, Matthew and Mark most detailed Luke is not as detailed, John, probably the least detailed. In fact, Luke doesn't even specify Gethsemane. And even in Luke's account, he only reports one time where the disciples were falling asleep. Okay. But yet it's an interesting story. When you think about the garden, did anybody else happen to hang out in the garden? Maybe live in a garden? But who, who lived in a garden? Adam, right. How many of you did your Sabbath School quarterly lesson this week? We talked about the fall. So some of the things interesting how we're going to, we're going to remind ourselves in many ways, when you look at the story, there's actually I, you know, I've been studying the Bible for years, and I didn't realize some of the parallels that kind of go back to Genesis. So Adam lived in the garden. Jesus was in the garden at one point, Adam was created in a perfect garden, Jesus was broken, born into a broken world, Adam faced temptation. And last but Jesus faced temptation in the garden and what? One, right, if you look to 1 Corinthians 15, and also on Romans, talks about how Jesus is the second Adam.

But we find here in Luke 22, that Jesus he felt this agonizing burden on his shoulders. In fact, it was so agonizing that scripture says, Luke says that Jesus knelt to pray and Matthew, he actually says he fell on his face. And for Jesus to be kneeling, and in Matthew's account falling on his face. What is he doing? He's praying, of course. But what is his tone? He's humbled. He's being reverent to God. He's seeking an honest question. He's asking God. And yet also, side note, just to kind of give a little bit more context. I hadn't thought of this before. They're in the Garden of Gethsemane, and what's in this garden of Gethsemane? It's also known as the Mount of Olives. So there's olive trees, right? Does anybody know what Gethsemane means? It means olive press. And what does an olive press do? It extracts all of the oil from the olives, creating olive oil. I'm gonna go a little deeper here to want to blow your mind. What is olive oil using the Bible for? anointing? How many of you, it was kind of like today, years old, I learned. I didn't realize that until this week. Isn't that amazing? Now, I've been studying my Bible for a long time. There's always so many little lessons along the way that we can take. But I find here that Jesus is experiencing this pressure. He's in Gethsemane, which is known as an Olive Press. Jesus in his heart and on his shoulders. He's

experiencing this, this agony. What is Jesus so distressed over? When you think about it, the weight of the world was on his shoulders, amen. The salvation of all of us was on his shoulders.

Earlier today. In Sabbath School, if you study your Sabbath school this week, there was a verse that that that stood out. But before it says, I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers, He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. When in the plan of salvation begin. Genesis 3:15. And throughout Genesis all the way to the Gospels, we see that God's plan of salvation was in order, amen. But yet we find now Jesus, where the weight of everything is on his shoulders. And he's he's talking about, he mentioned in verse 42, he says, Father, if you are willing, take this what from me? this cup from me yet, Not my will, but yours be done. And what is this cup that Jesus is talking about? Well, Jesus actually alludes to it in Matthew 20. In fact, even in Matthew 20, verse 19, he mentioned for a third time that he was predicting, prophesied that He would die. And a couple of verses later. Well, James, and John and their mother, their mother asks Jesus, what can my son's sit on your left and right? And Jesus basically responds with you don't know what you're asking, Are you sure? And then he responds with, you don't know what you're asking for. But then he points out that they will suffer experience hardship suffer persecution and death. But the place to which they're to sit was not his to give. Now, even Ellen White writes, The sins of men heavily weighed upon Christ. And the sense of God's wrath against sin was crushing out his life. This was his agony and in his agony, he clings to the cold ground, as if to prevent himself from being drawn father from God, from his pale lips, comes the bitter cry, Oh, my father, if it'd be possible, let this cup pass from me yet, even now, he adds, nevertheless, I love that word, nevertheless, or yet, not as I will, but as thou wilt. And in Jesus mind, he had this image, he already knew what he would have to face what he would have to endure. Any of you want to be in Jesus shoes at that moment? No. And Jesus also agonized over the fact of being separated from the Father sin and being cut off from the Father and yet Jesus was still faithful, your will be done. In many ways, I still think Jesus was extremely faithful. Jesus asked questions. God, can this cup the pass, but if not, that's okay. I will still be faithful to you. Some look at this as if Jesus is doubting God, but I don't think Jesus was doubting God I think he just was accepting the reality of what his life would be the expectation. He knew what he had to accomplish. And something so great and so profound was going to take everything from him. He knew what it would cost And it was here that he

probably it was the biggest time that the devil tried to get him to change his mind. No Jesus had been tempted by the devil before. In Matthew 4, Jesus also experienced hunger, he experienced thirst, experience dealing with difficult people. And yet through it all, he was faithful. We also find too on the cross, what does he say? Eli, Eli, lama Subak Tani, My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

A faithful life means we should ask questions. Simply asking why I think and to to ask God questions somebody wants to ask to question God cannot be a weakness of faith, because it's in our questions as we seek answers is where our faith can grow. Somebody else wrote this, for his part, Jesus goes to his death in the same manner that has characterized his life, namely, in the obedience to the will of his Father. His was the death of a prophet, but even more so the death of a regal Prophet, the Royal Messiah, the righteous one who suffers unjustly the servant of Yahweh. So what are the key words that we can take into consideration is yet or as we read, nevertheless, Jesus seeks for the cup to be passed on. But then he says, Yet I will be faithful to you.

And he is faithful, He was faithful. Now shortly thereafter, he leaves the garden and who is he met by Judas and the authorities. That means taken into custody. Now next week, you can find out what happens next. So you have to come back.

First, John 3:16 puts it this way, we know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. If Jesus doubted he wouldn't have given his life up for us, amen. So we also have to give up our lives for our brothers and our sisters. I don't know who wrote this. It's I would say it's a poem, but I just want to briefly read it for you all. Jesus saw what was coming by way of the cross. Jesus saw the beating of the Roman whip, the metal attached to the ends that would rip the skin off the victims back, beaten beyond recognition and could barely see to carry an old wooden cross to die on. That night before he saw that same blood that would run down his arm and drip off his elbows, nails were driven into his audience. That night before, he saw that same blood dripping off his toes and down to the foot of new the cross as nails were driven into his feet that night before. He saw that same blood as a crown of thorns was placed on his head. And that same blood ran down his forehead onto his eyebrows and down onto his eyelashes, and into his eyes and Blair blurred his vision. But wait, that blood might have blurred his human vision. But Jesus was God in the flesh the night before he saw that blood

as salvation to who so ever would come to him that night before he saw you and me as we came to that cross, and that bloodshed, washed away our sins and gives us eternal life the night before he could see the death of the defeat of death and the fall of Satan and the night before he could see the plans of a heavenly home for you and for me.

Now, what are some of the things what are some of the lessons that we can learn from this is that just like Jesus, we are not exempt from temptation. Anybody not been tempted before? Nobody raised their hands, right? We've all been tempted at one point. We all face temptation. And yet, what was Jesus response to his agony, his pain and his challenge? While earlier we found in Matthew four that he quoted Scripture, or He quoted the devil was to he quoted Scripture to the devil. But Jesus also in the Garden of Gethsemane, humbled Himself and He prayed. And so when we faced temptation, as well, may we, as we're experiencing this, just say, No, Lord help me. In dealing with this temptation helped me in my struggle or maybe even in my unbelief helped me, Lord, to have courage and the strength to say no. One of the beautiful things about this passage, though, is that in verse 43, an angel was sent to minister to strengthen, encourage Jesus. And as as a body of believers, I think it's important that we also take time to encourage one another. When we're dealing with something difficult when we're feeling tempted. When we're dealing with a difficult situation, it's important that we look out for one another, to be an encourager. But finally, as well, when we're dealing, and it's beyond us, don't be afraid to seek help. When we're dealing with hardship, is it is it easy to admit that we need help? Or do we oftentimes just try to keep it to ourselves, and we suffer in silence.

Ray Earl writes, you'd be surprised of what lengths people will go not to face what's real and painful inside of them. So don't be afraid to seek help somebody that you trust, whether it's a friend, or if need be a professional. But just like Jesus, pray for yourself, pray for one another. One of the things I love about this church is just our our steadfastness, to pray for one another. Amen. We have a prayer team that prays for our church every day. And I'm so grateful that many of you remind me, Pastor, we're praying for you, because I need it. But I believe that a faithful church is a prayerful church, we need to be people of prayer.

And I also think that Peter, James and John, the disciples, who would Jesus, Peter, James, and John, you had the disciples, you had the 12. But then there were

Peter, James, and John, who, for some reason, Jesus poured extra attention into them. And in Matthew and Mark in the case that he was they were there with him. And Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane. But he pulled Peter, James and John have backup, right? And what did he ask him to do? He asked them to pray. Now, in Luke's account, he only finds them sleeping once, but in the other accounts, he finds them sleeping three times. Right. Imagine now the burden that is on Jesus heart and on his shoulders, and his backup is sleeping. I think Peter, James, and John learned a very valuable lesson that night too. Because we find in Acts 12:1-5. Acts 12:1-5. I'll just read it here real quick. was about that time that King Herod arrested some who belong to the church intending to persecute them, he had James the brother of John put to death with the sword. When he saw that this was met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also, this happened during the festival of unleavened bread, and after arresting him, he put them in prison, handing them over to the to be guarded by the four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring them out for public trial after the Passover. So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. Now, this is just one example. Because there are many examples. In the book of Acts, especially where the disciples are praying for him later. Peter is lead out or he escapes me shows up and what were the people doing? They were praying for him. Right. But may we learn from Peter, James and John, to support for support one another, with prayer? May we be thankful for the courage of Jesus and the gift of life that he brings to us? Amen.

So reflection, wearing your life do you struggle with temptation? Where are you burdened? When you feel tempted, pray and if you know somebody that you're comfortable with, share your struggle with someone that you trust and pray with one another, that you buy the Lord's grace may overcome your temptation. Amen.

Let's pray. Father in heaven, Lord, thank you, again for the opportunity. To meet together, as friends, as family, be with us every day, Lord, as we go forward. There are many things that can be so appealing and yet, Lord, they're not good for us. Thank you, Lord, for Your faithfulness, for your steadfastness, for the fact that you took on the cross and defeated death, defeated sin and love us so much, Lord, you want to spend eternity with us. Help us to be faithful followers and ambassadors for you every day. Be with us until we meet again next week where

we celebrate not just your death, but more importantly as well Lord, the resurrection in Jesus name. Amen.

Grace and peace, everybody.