



Never Beyond His Reach #2: When Doubt Meets Jesus

April 18 & 19, 2026

John 20:19-31

Opener:

Think of a time someone went significantly out of their way to come back for you — or a time you did that for someone else. What made that act of return so meaningful?

Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

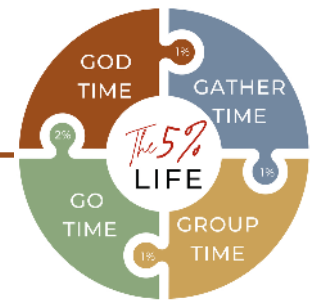
1. Read John 20:19–25. What do these verses reveal about the emotional and spiritual state of the disciples — and what stands out about the specific detail that Thomas was not with them?
 2. In John 20:25, Thomas delivers a verdict. What is the difference between a heart that is struggling to believe and a heart that has decided not to? Why does that distinction matter?
 3. In John 20:26–27, Jesus returns and offers Thomas exactly what he demanded. What does this tell us about the nature of grace and the character of the risen Christ?
 4. Thomas's response in John 20:28 — "My Lord and my God!" — is the highest confession of faith in John's entire Gospel. What does it reveal about what grace does to a closed and resistant heart?
 5. Read 1 Peter 1:3–9. How does this passage speak directly to the word Jesus pronounces over Thomas in John 20:29, and what does it say about the faith of those who believe without seeing?
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Live It: *(Applying to Daily Life)*

1. Where in your own life have you set the bar for belief or hope exactly high enough to make sure it couldn't be cleared? What might it look like to lay down that verdict before Jesus?
2. The sermon described the locked door as a way of protecting oneself from hope. How does this resonate with you personally? What would it look like to stay open to the risen Christ even when hope has felt dangerous?
3. Jesus came back specifically for the one person who said no. How does knowing that the risen Christ pursues the closed, not just the open, change the way you think about your own faith journey or about someone in your life who seems far from God?
4. 1 Peter 1:6-7 says our trials refine the "proven genuineness" of our faith. Where is God currently at work refining your faith? How does the Thomas story give you language and courage for that process?



GOD TIME:



Daily Bible Readings (April 19-25)

Sun:	John 20:19-31	He Came Back for Thomas
Mon:	1 Peter 1:3-9	A Living Hope that Holds
Tues:	Psalms 22:22-31	He Has Not Despised the Afflicted
Wed:	Romans 5:6-11	While We Were Still Sinners
Thurs:	Luke 15:1-10	The One Who Was Lost
Fri:	Isaiah 53:1-12	He Bore Our Wounds
Sat:	Revelation 21:3-4	The God Who Comes Near