

This is a lite version of the sermon for Sunday, April 24th

"On Having Courage to Ask"

Rev. Gary Howell

I think that the apostle Thomas on the whole has gotten a bad reputation; in the minds of more than a few he is considered the worst possible follower. In reality his coming to acknowledge that Jesus was alive was no different than the others. Luke (Chapter 24) makes the point that several women bore witness to his being alive and that the apostles did not believe them and that they considered the witness of those women as "an idle tale". Thomas stands out in John's gospel because he dared to ask for more information.

Now people have various means of processing information or data; some can internalize it quickly and silently, others have to be more vocal and want more clarification. So, Thomas falls into that second category.

He dared to ask for more insight; and he dared ask that of God. There is a message there, a challenge there, to us.

1. This can be a word of encouragement to us to know that there is nothing wrong to ask God for more clarification in whatever issues/concerns we bring up. Keep going back, time and time again, if need be.

2. This can be a word of encouragement to us to ask for guidance, for more specifics, from others. And a note not to be afraid to accept guidance from others. This is part of what being church is about. What does this say to this church about what is expected of your next installed pastor? Will you seek to explore other possibilities? If so, what are at least a few possibilities that might work out?

3. When we dare to ask for more information, more insight, somewhere in the process we will discover that God went ahead of us and stood beside us. And welcomed us. amen