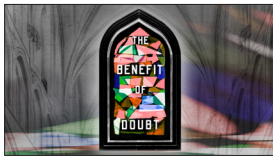




Your
story

matters.

OCT 19, 2025



The Benefit of Doubt

“Family Feuds”

Pastor Tom Lundeen | Oct 19, 2025

Our focus these weeks has been on different people in the Scriptures who struggled with _____.

But God actually used their doubts to ultimately deepen their faith and not have doubt be what _____ them.

It's _____ to think that some of the people who knew Jesus the longest and the best struggled with doubts about who He was and what His mission was (note **Mark 6:4**).

I. The _____ of These Doubts (note **Matthew 13:55-56**; **John 7:5**)

- A. It's easier to be _____ of siblings
(note **Luke 2:41ff**).
- B. It had to be difficult to have Jesus for a _____ - think of it...a sibling with spiritually defective DNA, but with some good _____ and abilities can be a tough act to follow; but Jesus was a perfect, incredibly gifted older sibling who had extraordinary _____ character. He would have been a _____ to His siblings, reflecting to them what they were not and highlighting their wrong thoughts/motives/actions that He never had.
- C. Concerned for His _____ (note **Mark 3:20-21, 31**) - mixture of concern but also disagreement with His ministry/ message...as Jesus' family/friends saw the growing opposition to His ministry by the religious and political powers of the day (note **Mark 3:20-21**), they were _____ why Jesus seemed unaware that He was *poking the bear*...
- D. They didn't comprehend His _____ - while Jesus' family was familiar with Him as a Person, their understanding of a warrior King _____ didn't seem to describe Jesus. Note **John 7:3-5** (they sound like _____ consultants wanting power...).



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2. So, What _____ Their Doubts and Created Faith?

Note **Acts 1:14; 15:13-14, 19; 1 Corinthians 15:7**

This is the _____ of the gospel (note **1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Romans 1:16**).

Note **Jude 1a, 4b, 24-25; James 1:1a; 2:1**

The Lord of glory had once slept beside them, ate at their dinner table, played with their friends, spoke to them like brothers, _____ their unbelief, paid the debt of their sin, and then brought them to faith. (Bloom)

So can there be benefit to my doubt?

- There was no better witness/example of the Christian faith than _____.
- But even His own brothers doubted Him for _____ years...
- Note **2 Corinthians 4:4, 6**
- It took 20-30 years of Jesus' faithful witness to His brothers, but the greatest _____ God ever does happened.
- Let God do His greatest miracle in your life today.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

App: Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** [MYRC.LINK/CONNECT](https://myrc.link/connect)

**Small Group Discussion &
Personal Guides on the back**



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

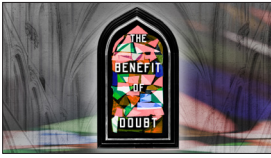
*If you could be someone else
for a day, who would it be?*

1. As a group, discuss your thoughts and takeaways from Conclusion, Overview Exercise, *Where Do I Go from Here?* & Appendix (pg 181-204) of *The Benefit of Doubt*.
2. What about you now would surprise people from your hometown, based on what they knew about you growing up?
3. Read **Mark 6:4** and **Matthew 13:55-56**. How could familiarity with someone's life cause us to miss the truth about them, even though we think we know them well?
4. Why do you think it can be hard for people to see Jesus for who He really is? (**2 Corinthians 4:4**) How easy (or hard) is it for people to see Jesus in you?
5. If you follow Jesus, describe the moment He "made His light shine" in your heart resulting in your miraculous 'YES!'. What about Jesus led you to make Him the Lord of your life? (**2 Corinthians 4:6**)
6. Overcoming your doubts is a **lifelong** walk with Jesus that begins by saying 'YES!' to him. Have you said your 'YES!'?

WEEKLY READING

Before you attend your small group, read Conclusion, Overview Exercise, *Where Do I Go from Here?* & Appendix (pg 181-204) of *The Benefit of Doubt*.

Not too late to join a small group! Use the GroupFinder at [MYRC.CHURCH/GROUPFINDER!](https://myrc.church/groupfinder)



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“Family Feuds”

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Our focus these weeks has been on different people in the Scriptures who struggled with doubt.

But God actually used their doubts to ultimately deepen their faith and not have doubt be what defines them.

It's amazing to think that some of the people who knew Jesus the longest and the best struggled with doubts about who He was and what His mission was (note **Mark 6:4**).

1. The Roots of These Doubts (note **Matthew 13:55-56; **John 7:5**)**

- A. It's easier to be skeptical of siblings (note **Luke 2:41ff**).
- B. It had to be difficult to have Jesus for a brother - think of it...a sibling with spiritually defective DNA, but with some good gifts and abilities can be a tough act to follow; but Jesus was a perfect, incredibly gifted older sibling who had extraordinary moral character. He would have been a mirror to His siblings, reflecting to them what they were not and highlighting their wrong thoughts/motives/actions that He never had.
- C. Concerned for His welfare (note **Mark 3:20-21, 31**) - mixture of concern but also disagreement with His ministry/message...as Jesus' family/friends saw the growing opposition to His ministry by the religious and political powers of the day (note **Mark 3:20-21**), they were perplexed why Jesus seemed unaware that He was *poking the bear*...
- D. They didn't comprehend His mission - while Jesus' family was familiar with Him as a Person, their understanding of a warrior King Messiah didn't seem to describe Jesus. Note **John 7:3-5** (they sound like political consultants wanting power...).



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2. So, What Shattered Their Doubts and Created Faith?

Note **Acts 1:14; 15:13-14, 19; 1 Corinthians 15:7**

This is the power of the gospel (note **1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Romans 1:16**).

Note **Jude 1a, 4b, 24-25; James 1:1a; 2:1**

The Lord of glory had once slept beside them, ate at their dinner table, played with their friends, spoke to them like brothers, endured their unbelief, paid the debt of their sin, and then brought them to faith. (Bloom)

So can there be benefit to my doubt?

- There was no better witness/example of the Christian faith than Jesus.
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