



Pastor Ken Studer

Sunday, March 30, 2008

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31

**TODAY'S THOUGHT: He who knows nothing, doubts nothing.
—Spanish Proverb**

In today's reading, we come across the one disciple who has a doubtful reputation. Thomas. We know him as Doubting Thomas. He just couldn't believe what the other disciples knew to be true: He is risen!

Last year, a book was published that reveals the extent to which this revered figure, known for her faith, piety and good works, lived with doubt throughout much of her ministry. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was so afflicted with doubt that she thought of herself as a hypocrite, often wondering "Where is my faith?" Mother Thomasa we might call her.

In some Christian circles, Mother Teresa and indeed the Catholic Church are controversial. We can acknowledge that, while at the same time agree that the ministry of this diminutive Albanian woman was phenomenal. Yet some of her letters dating back to the beginning of her Calcutta ministry up to the years before her death in 1997 reveal the full extent of her long "dark night of the soul."

She writes: "I am told God lives in me — and yet the reality of darkness and coldness and emptiness is so great that nothing touches my soul. ... I want God with all the power of my soul — and yet between us there is terrible separation." Later she writes: "I feel just that terrible pain of loss, of God not wanting me, of God not being God, of God not really existing."

What is disturbing is that if Thomas, who lived and walked with Jesus Christ himself, had doubts, and if Mother Teresa had doubts — what does that say about us? Is this a problem we have?

Maybe it is. Perhaps when we're suffering poor health and the loss of friends, we do wonder if God is with us after all. But many people live such comfortable lives, they're not compelled to wonder whether Jesus was who he said he was. Even John the Baptist asked Jesus, "Are you the One?"

Jesus is the One. Let us not worry about our doubts. Let us persevere in our faith, just as did Thomas the disciple, Mother Teresa and John the Baptist.

ACTIVITY PAGE for the week of March 30, 2008

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Deuteronomy 1-3
- Monday:** Deuteronomy 4-6
- Tuesday:** Deuteronomy 7-9
- Wednesday:** Deuteronomy 10-12
- Thursday:** Deuteronomy 13-16
- Friday:** Deuteronomy 17-19
- Saturday:** Deuteronomy 20-22

VERSE TO REMEMBER

*“The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
Love the LORD your God with all your
heart and with all your soul and with all
your strength.”*

—Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV)

S U D O K U

					8		9	7
		4		5		6		
		6			3		1	5
	5		4	6	2		3	1
	1		8		7		6	
6	7		1	9	5		4	
3	4		7				1	
		5		1			8	
1	6		5					

Sudoku is a popular new kind of puzzle that now appears in just about every major newspaper in the country.

The **directions** are simple: Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must have one of each digit, as must every column and every 3x3 square. Try not to look at the solution below!

5	2	1	6	4	8	3	9	7
7	3	4	9	5	1	6	8	2
9	8	6	2	7	3	4	1	5
8	5	9	4	6	2	7	3	1
4	1	2	8	3	7	5	6	9
6	7	3	1	9	5	2	4	8
3	4	8	7	2	9	1	5	6
2	9	5	3	1	6	8	7	4
1	6	7	5	8	4	9	2	3

HE IS NOT HERE;

He IS RISEN!