

# When Jesus Pursues Doubters

Welcome to worship at Rainbow. We are delighted that you are here.

This morning we will learn from Jesus' interaction with doubting Thomas what happens when he pursues those who struggle with doubt.

Thomas' life is a testimony to how kind and merciful Christ is to doubters. He bears with the infirmities of all His people.

How do you respond to people when their faith is feeble?

Remember Thomas' case and be compassionate and tender.

Our Lord has many weak children in His family and many frail lambs in His flock. Yet He bears with them all and casts none away.

Happy is that Christian who has learned to deal likewise with his brothers and sisters.

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION \* 9:00 AM Service \* Gathered Worship**

Have you ever wondered why we devote so much time to the reading and preaching of God's Word in corporate worship?

Like doubting Thomas, we all struggle with unbelief.

The Apostle Paul reminds us of the antidote:

"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ"  
(Romans 10:17).

*Prayer: Father, as we worship, read and study your Word together, would you be pleased to enlighten, convince, and humble us, conform us to your image, build us up in your grace, strengthen us against temptations and corruptions, and establish our hearts in holiness and encouragement. AMEN.*

**SONG FOR GATHERING ..... And Can It Be**

And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me who caused His pain!  
For me who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me?

Chorus: Amazing love how can it be  
That Thou my God should die for me!  
Amazing love how can it be  
That Thou my God should die for me!

He left His Father's throne above,  
So free, so infinite His grace!  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
For O my God, it found out me. Chorus

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. Chorus

**CALL TO WORSHIP.....1 Peter 1:8-9**

Though you have not seen him, you love him.  
Though you do not now see him,  
you believe in him and rejoice with joy  
that is inexpressible and filled with glory,  
obtaining the outcome of your faith,  
the salvation of your souls.

**PRAYER OF ADORATION.....**

## SONG OF PRAISE . . . . . Love Like Rain

Light and breath come from Your hand,  
In Your presence who can stand?  
Even angels veil their sight, High and lifted, glorified.  
Love outstanding overflows, In our hearts it ever grows  
Sent to live and breathe through us,  
Flow like waters comes Your love [2x].

Chorus: Love like rain fall down, Love like arms surround  
Hold the universe in place, Hold my heart in Your embrace.

Loving Father pure and right, Waits, arms open, for the sight  
Of the wayward son come home; Celebration waits alone.  
At first glimpse the Father runs, Dripping tears fall on the son  
From his knees the Father lifts, To embrace and kiss his face  
Yeah to embrace and kiss his face. Chorus

Blood and sweat have made the way, For the sinner gone astray.  
Come and rest in His embrace, Love has paved the way for grace.  
Enter in, Oh wayward child, Born in sin, now reconciled  
Live to please the Lord of love, Live and breathe for home above.  
Yeah live and breathe for home above. Chorus

Yeah, Father God come down, Father God surround.  
Take this wand'ring heart of mine,  
Seal it for Thy courts divine, Seal it for Thy courts divine

**SONG OF CONFESSION . . . . . Lord I Need You**

Lord I come I confess, Bowing here I find my rest  
And without You I fall apart, You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus: Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
And where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me  
Where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me. Chorus

So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay. Chorus

**MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION. . . . .**

Ever faithful and most gracious Father,  
You promise blessing to those who trust You  
without the aid of sight.  
Yet we confess losing our battle with unbelief regularly.  
Forgive us for doubting Your provision, promises, and plan.  
Pardon us for the times that we have faced our trials  
with cowardice and not courage,  
with fickleness and not faith.  
Grant us to discover anew  
in Jesus' death and resurrection  
the reality, immensity, and assurance of Your love.  
We pray in the strong name  
of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON . . . . .Acts 26:18**

Let us “turn from darkness to light  
and from the power of Satan to God,  
that receive forgiveness of sins  
and a place among those who are sanctified  
by faith in Jesus.”

**SONG OF ASSURANCE. . . . .Goodness of God**

I love You, Lord  
Oh Your mercy never fails me  
All my days, I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Chorus: Cause all my life You have been faithful  
And all my life You have been so, so good  
With every breath that I am able  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
And in darkest night You are close like no other  
I've known You as a Father  
I've known You as a Friend  
And I have lived in the goodness of God. Chorus

'Cause Your goodness is running after, it's running after me  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me  
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now  
I give You everything.  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me (2X)

Chorus: [2x]

**GREETINGS/MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES. ....**

**SCRIPTURE MEMORY CHALLENGE. .... Psalm 23:1-2**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.

**SERMON TEXT. .... John 20:24-29**

**THE SERMON ..... When Jesus Pursues Doubters**  
*#5 in our series on "When Jesus Pursues"*

1. He comes to us in spite of \_\_\_\_\_ (24-25).
2. He ministers to us his gospel of \_\_\_\_\_ (26-27).
3. He transforms us into his blessed \_\_\_\_\_ (28-29).

**COMMUNION. ....**

It is our privilege to celebrate the Lord’s Supper today.  
It is the family meal of believers by which we recall Jesus’ cross,  
relive his anguish, and renew our vows to live as His followers.

We invite all followers of Jesus Christ to participate:

- who are baptized members of a gospel-proclaiming church,
- who are endeavoring to live at peace with God and others,
- and who seek grace and strength to live a life pleasing to our Lord.

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION .....**

**SONG FOR COMMUNION . . . . .Jesus Messiah**

He became sin, who knew no sin,  
That we might become His righteousness  
He humbled himself and carried the cross.  
Love so amazing, love so amazing

Chorus: Jesus Messiah, name above all names  
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel  
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven  
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all!

His body the bread, His blood the wine  
Broken and poured out all for love  
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn  
Love so amazing, love so amazing. Chorus

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You  
All the glory to You, God, the light of the world. Chorus

**BENEDICTION. . . . .Psalm 67:1-2**

May God be merciful to you and bless you,  
And cause His face to shine upon you,  
That Your way may be known on earth,  
Your salvation among all nations. AMEN.