

# SERMON OUTLINE John 20:24-29

Belief that Has Not Seen

---

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **THE LORD IS PATIENT WITH HIS PEOPLE (24-27)**

*Thomas Doubted (24-25)*

*Jesus Was Patient (26-27)*

### **FAITH IS THE LORD'S GIFT TO US (28-29)**

*Thomas Believed (28)*

*The Nature of Faith (29)*

## **CONCLUSION**

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

## MAIN POINT

---

The big ideas of this passage are that the risen Lord is patient with His people and faith is His gift to us. The main takeaway is to identify the promises of God and fight in the Spirit's power to believe them because Jesus has risen from the dead.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Have you ever doubted God? If so, why? What happened?
3. Have you ever told God (explicitly or implicitly) you wouldn't believe or obey unless \_\_\_\_\_?
4. Where have you been most consistently in need of the patience of others? How have you experienced God's patience?
5. When do you most experience God's peace? When do you least experience it? What happens in each case?
6. Have you ever thought of genuine faith—initial and ongoing—as a gift from God that we need to work out?
7. What do you think and how do you feel about orphan care? What has been your experience with it?
8. In what ways did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

---

9. Take home the list of promises of future grace and commit to praying for the Spirit's help to live in light of them.
10. Worship. Carve out a time each day to read God's Word, pray, and worship him. The more you fall in love with God, the more you'll care about the things God cares about—including and especially the fatherless.
11. Evangelize. The more the gospel is able to take hold, the fewer orphans there will be—because the gospel produces godliness and godliness produces healthy homes and people with a heart to invite others into them.
12. Consider. Consider the many passages in Pastor Dave's sermon on the mind/heart of God toward orphans, His commands for His people concerning orphans, and the relationship between orphans and the gospel.
13. Talk. Seek out one of the many families at Grace Church who have adopted or are fostering. It might help overcome some of the scariness or, at the very least, you'll better know how to pray for and support those who are in the trenches.
14. Pray. Pray for orphans. Pray for specific children to receive specific love, justice, and families. Pray for Christians to pursue God's mind and heart. Pray for Christians to obey God's commands.
15. Give. Give lots of money to adopting couples, godly grant and adoption agencies, and those who are engaged in orphan care. Specifically, please consider giving to the adoption fund at Grace to help the next family at Grace with their home study.
16. Help. Work to prevent kids from being orphaned by helping with Together for Good.
17. Care. Care for orphans locally through making meals for foster and adoptive parents or internationally through a godly organization like Global Fingerprints.
18. Become. Seriously and prayerfully consider becoming foster or adoptive parents.
19. Ask two different people in your family or DG one thing they got from this sermon and how you can pray for them in light of it.
20. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon and for someone to help.

## PRAYER POINTS

---

21. Adoration. Praise God that He is perfectly patient, present, gracious, peaceful, sovereign and good.
22. Confess. Confess sins of disbelief, doubt, giving God ultimatums, anxiety, fear, or indifference to the fatherless.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God for adopting you, for granting the gift of faith, for raising Jesus from the dead, and for peace.
24. Supplication. Ask God to grant belief to one person in your life for the first time and another person for some specific aspect of obedience. Ask God to drive out fear and drive in peace to and through His people at Grace Church.