

CCU Softball Week 5 Devotion: Believe

Open in a word of prayer

Questions for thought: If I told you 5 years ago, the Warriors would win the 2015 NBA Championship against LeBron James, would you believe me? If I told you in 2009, the Giants would win THREE World Series Championships only on the even years starting 2010, would you believe me?

Bible Passage: John 20: 24-31

Lesson:

There has been times in my life where I have had doubt and fear. It took me a few years to get into graduate school. It took a lot of applying to different schools, retaking my GREs, and constant volunteer work. I felt like I was getting discouraged, and my faith in Him dwindled. I was thinking there must have been another plan that He wanted, or I just wasn't listening. While studying the Bible, I had to believe God's plan for me would happen when He wanted it to. Although He had not told me exactly what to do or where to go, I wanted to put my trust and faith in Him knowing He is almighty and His light shines over darkness. I eventually got into a school, and God has been good helping me graduate.

Thomas in this passages demands, "except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." Jesus said, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God." Jesus rejoices when we have faith in Him, believing without demanding signs, wonders, or miracles to prove it. Jesus says, "because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Thomas was full of doubt, fear, resentment, hurt, bitterness, and Jesus met him in the middle of his doubt, and gave him assurance with compassion and grace. The darkness of doubt could not overcome him.

Discussion Questions: (Break off into small groups of 3-4, by counting off)

- Introduce yourself: name, favorite food, favorite ice cream flavor

- Would you have believed if I told you the Warriors would have won the championship this year 5 years ago? Or how about 3 World Series championships every even year since 2010 in 2009?
- What is a fear/doubt have you been dealing with recently?

Wrap up: Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Belief leads to life, life leads to light, light overcomes all darkness.