

## SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020

*A lot of people believe Jesus was a real person who lived a long time ago who did and said a lot of cool things that can make life better. But fewer people are willing to believe the other part of the story about Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Those who hesitate are not alone – in fact, Jesus' closest followers didn't expect and were hesitant to believe the resurrection. They were so hesitant they had locked themselves behind closed doors. One was so skeptical he refused (from behind locked doors) to believe “unless” he saw and touched Jesus' wounds from the cross. But Jesus wasn't bound by locked doors and was able to undo the unless – and changing everything in the process for those who would believe. The story of the first Easter isn't just the story of the first Easter and it's not just a story for Easter. The story of Jesus' resurrection is a story that changes everything any day for those who believe. What's your “unless”? Whatever it is, “unless” doesn't have to shape what we believe.*

### READ JOHN 20:1-29

- What does Mary showing up at the tomb to embalm Jesus' body reveal about what she expected to find when she got there?
- Why do you think Mary assumed Jesus' body had been taken rather than resurrected?
- If you had showed up at the tomb like Mary to find it empty, what assumptions might you have made about what had happened?
- Why do you think John didn't go in the tomb? Why do you think Peter did?
- What do the condition of the linen wrappings and head cloth reveal about what had happened?
- Why might Mary have thought the man who spoke to her was the gardener?
- What feelings might Mary have had in that moment when she realized Jesus had risen from the dead?
- Why do you think Jesus' followers were locked behind closed doors? What does that say about their expectations of resurrection?
- Why might Thomas not believe until he saw the reality of resurrection for himself?
- How did seeing Jesus (and his wounds) for himself impact what Thomas believed?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, “Blessed are those who believe without seeing me”?
- What next step will you take to believe without seeing?