

**Matthew 28:16-20**  
**Trinity Sunday; June 7, 2020**

**“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.”** These verses come right before some of the most well-known verses in the Bible. Look at those verses 16 – 17. The Resurrection of Jesus has already taken place. He will soon be going back to heaven. Jesus is standing right there in front of them. They talk to him, eat with him and worship him. That’s not the strange part. But then we read the words, **“but some doubted.”** Those words seem strange right here. For some strange reason, those three words jumped out at me this week. **“But some doubted.”** Wait a minute! Stop! Matthew just leaves those words hang out there. He doesn’t tell us who doubted or even why they were doubting. Just that some of them some doubted. When you look at this section of Matthew, what do we usually focus on? **“Go and make disciples....”**

Yet, I think we can relate to those words, **“but some doubted.”** Have any doubts today? Had any doubts yesterday. Tomorrow? It’s a confusing and scary time that we live in. For example, because of COVID-19, we were told to stay at home. Business and churches were closed by the safer at home directives. Yet, we hear one expert say one thing, and then we can hear an equally qualified expert say the exact opposite thing. They both make sense. Both are very real. The science is real. The disease is real. The fear is real. Yet, we find ourselves asking ourselves: *What is real or not?* Sometimes, I don’t know. I don’t have all the answers. Please don’t take me wrong. I am not saying that we shouldn’t be taking this whole virus thing seriously; because we should. And I do. And I understand all the different perspectives. I just don’t like the doubt. I don’t like uncertainty. I don’t like confusion. I don’t like frustration. When I look around me, I see a whole lot of doubt, uncertainty, confusion and frustration in a whole bunch of things going on around us. So, what do we do? First, recognize that doubt doesn’t come from Jesus. It comes from sin that has broken a world. But Jesus can also use doubt to strengthen us.

Let’s look at Jesus’ answer to the disciples doubt. **“When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”** I would love to know what that doubt was. Rather than dwelling on the disciples’ doubts, Matthew quickly moves to Jesus’ answer. Matthew only briefly mentions the doubts, just three words, then he focusses completely on Jesus’ response to those doubts. See, whatever the disciples were doubting, whatever they were uncertain about, whatever doubts and uncertainties you and I carried into church with us today, Jesus answers all of them.

His answer is simple. Jesus says, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”** His authority has no limits attached to it. He says: **“All.”** There is only one person who can make such a claim – God. How comforting it must have been for the disciples to hear this claim of power. There is nothing that you and I will face in this world that Jesus doesn’t have power over.

Because Jesus has this authority, he can also give us a command: **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”** These are the familiar words. These are words that are read at baptisms. You have heard these words preached at Mission Festivals. They are used to emphasize the importance of preaching and teaching all of God’s words. They show the gift of salvation is for people of every nation on earth. These words show us that we have a Triune God. They assure us that the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit work through these words. But this morning, I would like to focus on these words to see how Jesus answers the doubts and uncertainties of life.

Jesus doesn’t say to his disciples here that they were foolish to have doubts. Jesus doesn’t say that the Christian is not going to have any doubts as they live their lives. What he does say, is that we need to take those doubts and put them on Jesus. Jesus says: *Trust me.* We put our trust in various things every single day. Every time we drive our car across a bridge, we trust it will hold up like it has done many times before. We trust that the bridge won’t collapse. Yet, we all know that sometimes, they do collapse. Every day, we put our trust in Jesus. Every day, we know that he won’t fail us. He won’t fail us because **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”**

Each day we give our doubts and fears over to Jesus in exchange for courage and confidence. Every morning we begin by handing over our sins and failures to Jesus so he can extend forgiveness and grace to us. Every day we remember that

our sins have been washed away with the waters of our baptism. Every day we remember that we are redeemed children of God. Every day we whisper our prayers into Jesus' ear. He speaks back to us through the words of the Bible to assure us that we have the full weight of the Triune God for us. We come before his altar and we receive his body and his blood in the Lord's Supper to receive his forgiveness.

Yet, even though we lay all those doubts on Jesus, there are days that the doubts overwhelm us. What does Jesus say? *I hate to tell you this, but the temptation to doubt and fear are not going away on this side of heaven..... But neither am I. I will be there every day with you.*” **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

When you wrestle with doubts and fears, listen and find comfort in these words of Jesus. **“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”** Amen.