

Problems – Study 4

In our lesson series, we've been looking at the subject of problems. Now, many of us have problems, and if you don't have a problem, I'd like to meet you sometime. If you've never had a problem, I would really like to meet you sometime. You know, as a human being, we all have problems, and one of the things that come about when we have problems... these problems produce symptoms. And that's what we've been looking at. We've looked at the symptom of worry, and we've looked at the symptom of fear. Today, of course, we look at the symptom of doubt. Each problem that we've had will produce symptoms. And in order to solve the problems, we must look at the symptoms and solve that symptom and in turn solve the problem.

Well, sometimes these symptoms will cause problems themselves and we just need to get serious and understand that God wants us to be happy. He wants us to be people who serve Him and that nothing would stand in the way of our service when we are in service to the Lord.

Well, today, let's look at the subject of doubt. That would be a symptom, and whatever problem in your life is causing that, well, that's going to be up to you to solve that problem. I don't know the problems that you're having that could be causing this symptom, this symptom of doubt, but prayerfully, when we're finished with this series, you'll be able to look at each one of these symptoms that we're studying, and it will help lead you to the problems and solve those problems within your life.

In John 20:25, it says, *The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, 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.

And my question to you today is, are you a Doubting Thomas? And of course, this was Thomas, one of the apostles who had a doubt that the others had actually seen Jesus. He said, "I'm not gonna believe unless I actually see Him and feel Him and handle Him and touch Him," but are you like Doubting Thomas?

Let's be honest. All of us will have doubts on occasion, but those doubts of any kind should not be allowed to control our lives, and we need to learn certain things. And we need to learn first of all that God is true. Let God be true in our lives. God said He would never leave or forsake us. Hebrews 13:5: *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* This is speaking of God.

It is impossible for God to lie or to deceive. In Hebrews 6:18, it says, *That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.* Titus 1:2 says, *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.*

Well, does God keep His promises? The first three words in Genesis 1:6 say this: *And God said...* and then the last four words in Genesis 1:7 say ... *and it was so.* God never fails. God says what He means and means what He says. Whenever God speaks, He speaks the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

In Numbers 23:19, it says, *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*

John 17:17, Jesus speaking: *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.* Whose Word is truth? God's Word is truth, the Holy Scriptures that we have set before us as we study His Word. His Word is truth.

Matthew 22:29: *Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.* Many of our doubts come about because we don't study the Scriptures. We don't get into the Word of God, and when we do not do that, when we don't go God's way, when we don't listen to God's Word, then doubts will arise.

Jesus said in Mark 14:49, *I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled.* Everything that God says must come to pass. Therefore, it's a terrible sin to doubt God's Word and to question what He has said. We need to depend upon God. We need to depend upon His Word to lead and guide us.

Well, Jesus said the Scriptures must be fulfilled and they must. God has never failed to fulfill a promise. Everything will come to pass just as God said. Joshua 21:45 says, *There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.*

We find this same thing throughout the Scriptures that God has never failed. And if you will think back on your life, God has never failed you. God has never let you down.

Well, God can't lie, and we need to get rid of that doubt of thinking that God can't take care

of us, because God is true. Everything He has said will come to pass and the next thing that we need to consider is this: Is it ever right to doubt?

Well, there's healthy doubt. Sometimes doubt can be a virtue. When we think back and look into the Scriptures, we see that Eve should have doubted the serpent. In Genesis 3:1-5, it says, *¹Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ²And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. ⁴And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

First of all, Eve didn't listen to God, because God never said, "Don't touch the tree." He simply said, "Do not eat of the tree." So, Eve added to the Word, and there's a danger when anyone tries to add to the Word of God. When you try to put in your own meanings to something that we find in the Word of God, it's wrong. We need to take the Scriptures as the Scriptures read, as they say and what they say. We need to listen to God and not try to change what God has said in His Word. But notice there, that Eve should have doubted the serpent but she didn't. She got in trouble.

Well, the wise men, they doubted Herod. Matthew 2:8: *And he sent them to Bethlehem... This is Herod sending the wise men to Bethlehem... and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.*

Well, Herod was trying to trick these fellows. He wanted to kill Jesus, but in Matthew 2:12, it says, *And being warned...* These are the wise men... *And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.* Well, they doubted what Herod said, and it was a good doubt.

At times, it is necessary to question what someone says. If we believe everything people tell us, we can get ourselves into a big mess, into a lot of trouble.

Well, sometimes doubt can also be a detriment, in other words a disadvantage or a harmful thing. We've seen that Eve doubted God. She should have doubted the serpent. In Genesis 2:9, it says, *And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

¹⁶And the Lord... Genesis 2:16-17...God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 3:6: *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

Did you ever hear the saying, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach"? I believe that's where this comes from. Adam was standing there, and Eve said, "This is good. Eat it." And Adam ate it and, of course, we know that sin came into the world by the disobedience of that one man, that one man

Adam. So, death passed upon all men and women for that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There's only one way to get out of that sin and get out of that death sentence and that's to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Well, sometimes we are to doubt the prophet as to whether or not he is a prophet of God. In I John 4:1, it says, *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.* To "try," in other words, to doubt the spirits whether they are of God according to I John 4:1, is to discern, to make a decision, to look at them carefully, to discern them by God's Word and by the Holy Spirit. Don't go with what you feel, but by what God says.

In John 17:17, *Sanctify them...* That's the apostles and the disciples there during Jesus' time and also to us if we keep reading in John Chapter 17. He says, *Sanctify them...* that's us... *through thy truth: thy word is truth.* We're to get into the Word of God, the truth, and that's found in the Word of God. God's Word is truth.

Well, some people have doubts about salvation. They really ask a question, "Am I really saved? Do I really have eternal life? Have I lost my salvation? Have I committed the unpardonable sin? Will I really go to Heaven when I die? I don't feel like I'm saved." Well, maybe you've felt like that in the past, but it's wonderful to know that we do not need to doubt our salvation. We have eternal life. We know that we've passed from death unto life.

First John 5:13 says, *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.* Once again, it's

the Word of God that takes that doubt of whether we're saved forever or not. I mean, it takes that doubt away because we're saved. We've asked Jesus to come into our hearts and the way we keep that knowledge and that understanding is by staying in His Word. Staying close to God.

Well, we need to hear what God and His Son say and not what man says or thinks. You're a man or a woman listening to this lesson today and it makes no difference what you think. It's what God's Word says. Luke 9:35 says, *And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.* And that's where the assurance comes from, is by hearing Jesus Christ.

John 1:12: *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.* Do you know Him as your Savior? Receive Him today. Let Him come into your heart. You may pray a prayer like this: "God, I know I'm a sinner. I know I can't go to Heaven on my own. I need You, Lord. And I'm asking Jesus to come into my heart right now. I receive Him as my Lord and my Savior."

If you'll pray a prayer like that, God will save you. God wants you to go to Heaven.

And as a Christian, don't doubt His Word. Don't doubt what God has said. You're saved. You're on your way to Heaven because you've trusted Jesus as your Savior.

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Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it's a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly is our prayer.