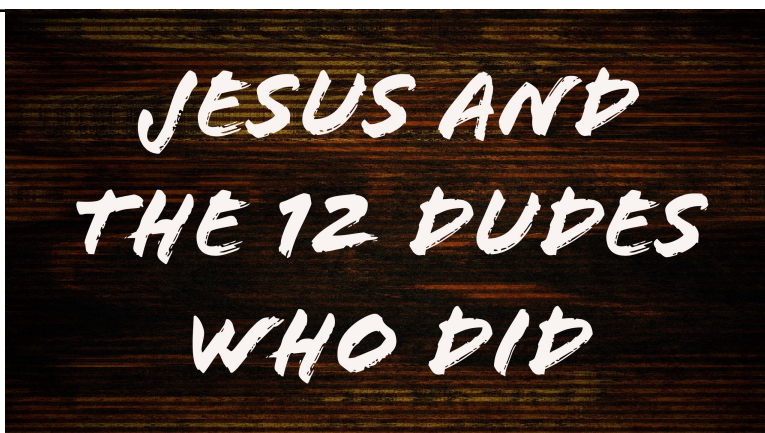


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## Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.
- [Include other notes about graphics or media during the service here]



Text highlighted in this way have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way are a reminder for Andrew during delivery.

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*Text highlighted in this way are direction for Andrew during delivery.*

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## Key Questions

### What is this sermon about?

This sermon teaches us about the apostles Jude / Thaddeus, Simon the Zealot and Thomas, as well as helping us grow in our faith.

### Why is this sermon important?

It is important because we can grow in our faith on our own and with others.

### What is the good news?

The good news is that we can experience the love of God made real in Jesus.

### What are the next action steps?

You are invited to read the Bible, pray, and be part of a small group.

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## Metadata

### Topics

- Grow
- Make Disciples

### Sermon Books of the Bible

- John
- Jude
- Matthew

12th Sunday after Pentecost/in Kingdomtide [Green]

August 27, 2017

Jesus and the 12 Dudes Who Did - Growing Faith and Doubt

John 20:24-29

First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

Preaching Target Word Count: 1,750

## Tags

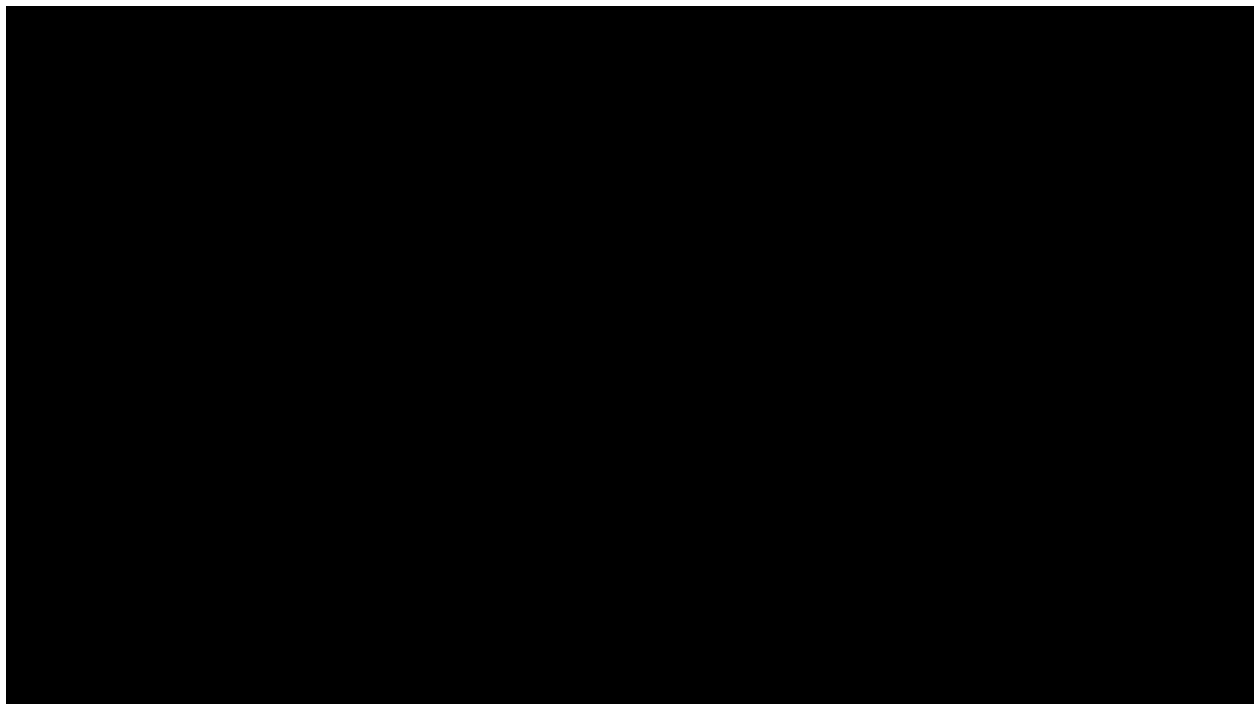
sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, disciples, apostles, discipleship, DiscipleshipPathway, SimontheZealot, Jude, Thaddeus, Thomas, grow, growth

## Sermon Audio

*9 a.m. Worship*

*11 a.m. Worship*

## Sermon Video



**Introduction** **5**

John 20:24-29, NRSV

John 20:24-29, CEB

Response to Scripture

Sermon Starter Video

**Flowers at the Church** **6**

Transition

Series Review

Discipleship Pathway

Jesus and the 12 Dudes Who Did

**Jude / Judas Thaddaeus** **6**

Identity and New Testament

Jude = Thaddeus

Jude ≠ Judas Iscariot

Key Scripture - John 14:22

Key Scripture - Jude 1:1

Tradition and Legend

Death and Remains

**Simon the Zealot** **7**

Identity and New Testament

Obscure Apostle

Distinguished from Simon Peter

Key Scripture - Matthew 13:54-55

Tradition and Legend

Death and Remains

**Thomas** **8**

Identity and New Testament

Key Scripture - John 11:16

Key Scripture - John 14:5

Tradition and Legend

Death and Remains

**Growing Faith and Doubt**

**9**

Reflection on Thomas

**Conclusion**

**10**

Good News

God's Grace Works on Us

Prevenient Grace

Justifying Grace

Sanctifying Grace

Call to Action

Read the Bible

Pray

Grow with Others

Invitation

Closing Prayer

---

## Introduction

### John 20:24-29, NRSV

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

### John 20:24-29, CEB

<sup>24</sup>Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>The other disciples told him, “We've seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe.”

<sup>26</sup>After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!”

<sup>28</sup>Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe.”

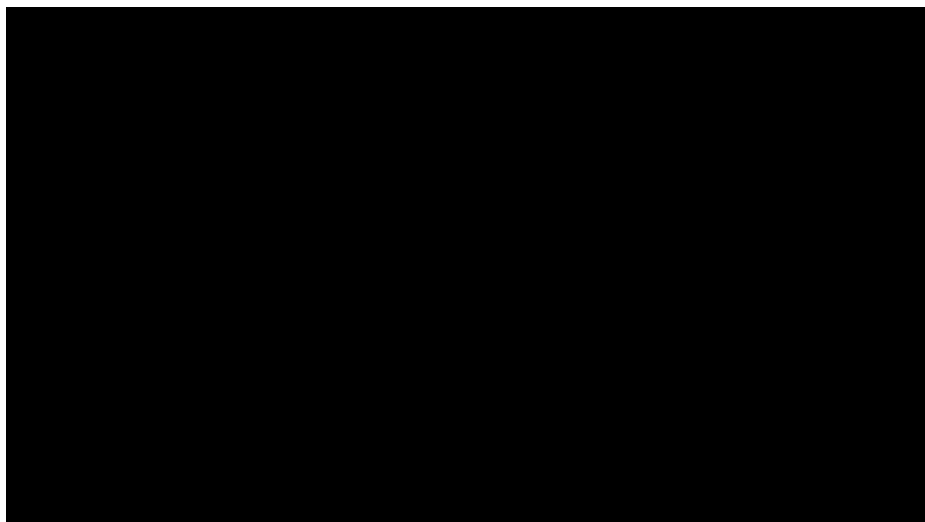
## Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.



## Flowers at the Church

I have really enjoyed coming in to the church building and seeing the flowers blooming along the sidewalk. With the right plant, place, and care, these plants have grown from small plants to fill the space where they are planted.

### ***Transition***

The same can be true for our faith. With time and attention, we can find our faith growing, blooming and thriving.

## Series Review

### ***Discipleship Pathway***

During this worship series, we are focusing on our discipleship pathway, which is this:

We live as disciples of Jesus Christ as we worship, grow, give, serve and share.

These are expectations for our members and invitations to all people to experience life as a follower of Jesus Christ. There are many ways to live a faithful life. This is how we live as Christians here at First United Methodist Church.

### ***Jesus and the 12 Dudes Who Did***

We will be taking a closer look at the lives and stories of the 12 apostles who shared life with Jesus during his public ministry in the ancient near east. We will be looking for lessons that we can learn from them that can teach us about living as a follower of Jesus Christ.

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## Jude / Judas Thaddaeus<sup>1</sup>

### Identity and New Testament

#### ***Jude = Thaddeus***

Jude or Judas is mentioned in the lists of apostles in Luke and Acts. However, in the lists of apostles in Matthew and Mark, Jude is omitted, but there is a Thaddeus. This has led many Christians since early times to harmonize the lists by suggesting a “Jude Thaddeus”, known by either name. This is made plausible by the fact that “Thaddeus” seems to be a nickname.

#### ***Jude ≠ Judas Iscariot***

He is clearly distinguished from Judas Iscariot, the apostle who betrayed Jesus. Judas and Jude are translated from the same name in Greek, yet he became known as Jude after early translators of the New Testament from Greek into English sought to distinguish him from Judas Iscariot and abbreviated his name.

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Jude the Apostle," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Jude\\_the\\_Apostle&oldid=796243712](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Jude_the_Apostle&oldid=796243712) (accessed August 25, 2017).

### **Key Scripture - John 14:22**

The Gospel of John also once mentions a disciple called Judas in chapter 14:22:

“<sup>22</sup>Judas (not Judas Iscariot) asked, “Lord, why are you about to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?”<sup>2</sup>

This is generally accepted to be Jude Thaddeus.

### **Key Scripture - Jude 1:1**

The author of the book of Jude is identified in the first verse:

“<sup>1</sup>Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and brother of James. To those who are called, loved by God the Father and kept safe by Jesus Christ.<sup>3</sup>

*Pause*

## **Tradition and Legend**

Tradition holds that Jude preached the gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, Mesopotamia and Libya. In all probability he spoke both Greek and Aramaic, like almost all of his contemporaries in that area, and was a farmer by trade.

## **Death and Remains**

According to tradition, Saint Jude suffered martyrdom about 65 AD in Beirut, in the Roman province of Syria, together with the apostle Simon the Zealot, with whom he is usually connected. Sometime after his death, Jude's body was brought from Beirut to Rome and placed in a crypt in St. Peter's Basilica.

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## **Simon the Zealot<sup>4</sup>**

### **Identity and New Testament**

#### ***Obscure Apostle***

Simon is one of the most obscure of the twelve apostles of Jesus. The name occurs in Mathew, Mark, Luke, and the Acts of the Apostles each time there is a list of apostles, however there is not much more detail.

#### ***Distinguished from Simon Peter***

He is known as Simon the Zealot or Simon the Cananaean to distinguish him from Simon Peter. Theologians have theorized that Simon the Zealot may be the same

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<sup>2</sup> John 14:22, CEB.

<sup>3</sup> Jude 1:1, CEB.

<sup>4</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Simon the Zealot," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Simon\\_the\\_Zealot&oldid=791348903](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Simon_the_Zealot&oldid=791348903) (accessed August 25, 2017).

person as Simeon of Jerusalem who would be come the second bishop of Jerusalem or Simon the brother of Jesus.

### **Key Scripture - Matthew 13:54-55**

<sup>54</sup>When he came to his hometown, he taught the people in their synagogue. They were surprised and said, "Where did he get this wisdom? Where did he get the power to work miracles? <sup>55</sup>Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother named Mary? Aren't James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas his brothers?"<sup>5</sup>

### **Tradition and Legend**

The most widespread tradition about Simon is that he shared the good news of Jesus in Egypt and then joined Jude in Persia and Armenia or Beirut, Lebanon.

### **Death and Remains**

He and Jude were martyred in 65 AD in Beirut. He is buried in the same tomb as Jude at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

There are a number of other traditions that tell the story of Simon. We are unable to know which has the most truth.

## **Thomas<sup>6</sup>**

### **Identity and New Testament**

Thomas is informally called doubting Thomas because he doubted Jesus' resurrection when first told, followed later by his confession of faith, "My Lord and my God", on seeing Jesus' wounded body.

### **Key Scripture - John 11:16**

Thomas first speaks in the Gospel of John when Lazarus had recently died. The apostles do not wish to go back to Judea, where some Jews had attempted to stone Jesus. We read in John 11:16:

<sup>16</sup>Then Thomas (the one called Didymus) said to the other disciples, "Let us go too so that we may die with Jesus."<sup>7</sup>

### **Key Scripture - John 14:5**

He speaks again when Jesus had just explained that he was going away to prepare a heavenly home for his followers, and that one day they would join him there. Hear these words in John 14:5

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 13:54-55, CEB.

<sup>6</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Thomas the Apostle," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Thomas\\_the\\_Apostle&oldid=796967939](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Thomas_the_Apostle&oldid=796967939) (accessed August 25, 2017).

<sup>7</sup> John 11:16, CEB.



<sup>5</sup>Thomas asked, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?”<sup>8</sup>

*Pause*

## Tradition and Legend

Traditionally, he is said to have travelled outside the Roman Empire to preach the Gospel in India.

## Death and Remains

Where he was allegedly killed at St. Thomas Mount, near Chennai, in 72 A.D. His body was interred in Mylapore, India.

*Pause*

## Growing Faith and Doubt

### Reflection on Thomas

In the scripture passage for today, I can understand Thomas’ point of view. He hadn’t seen Jesus since he had been put to death on the cross. I don’t care how much he trusted his friends who told him that Jesus was alive – it makes sense that he wants to see evidence. Evidence that Jesus is alive.

In this passage, Jesus himself, is able to provide that evidence.

“Put your finger here.

Look at my hands.

Put your hand into my side.

No more disbelief.

Believe!”<sup>9</sup>

Can you imagine what that was like?

*Pause*

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<sup>8</sup> John 14:5, CEB.

<sup>9</sup> John 20:27, CEB.

## Conclusion

### Good News

While we don't experience Jesus as Thomas experienced Jesus in this story, the good news is that we can experience the love of God made real in Jesus.

#### ***God's Grace Works on Us***

As United Methodist Christians, we talk about God's love and willingness to forgive as grace. It is this grace – God's grace – that makes it possible for us to believe in Jesus and shape our lives on his teaching and example. God's grace is available to all people, at all times of life and we are all in different places in our spiritual life.

#### ***Prevenient Grace***

God is at work in our life before we are aware of it.

No matter who you are, what you have done or what your life is like right now, God loves you and wants to be in relationship with you.

God freely offers us love and forgiveness, even though we don't deserve it.

#### ***Justifying Grace***

For people who follow Jesus, there is a single moment in time or a realization over months or years when you recognize God's grace at work in your life and on your soul.

You consciously make a decision to respond to God's love.

We confess our sins, receive forgiveness, trust in God and seek to follow Jesus.

We are justified, or made right, with God.

This is a milestone in our life of faith, but it is not the end of the way that God's grace is at work in our souls.

#### ***Sanctifying Grace***

God's grace continues to be at work in our lives and in our souls.

We talk about that experience as being made perfect in love.

We continue to grow in our faith throughout our lives.

## Call to Action

God brings spiritual growth in our lives, but there are things that we can do on our own to make ourselves more receptive to the work of God's grace in our soul. Two of these practices to read the Bible and pray.

#### ***Read the Bible***

Reading the bible can be a powerful way for us to grow in our faith. The Bible gives us the clearest picture of Jesus and in Jesus we see the clearest picture of God.

If you need a Bible, **we will give you a Bible** for free. Stop by the office afterward and you can take one from the shelf.

**Use the bulletin** to be a tool for you to grow in your faith. Each week you can read the scripture for next Sunday to prepare for worship and consider the reflection questions on your own or with a Wesley Small Group.

### **Pray**

Another simple and powerful way to grow in your faith is to pray and spend time with God. Take time to listen and speak. Relationships are built when you spend time with someone and share a conversation.

### **Grow with Others**

Reading the Bible and praying are two simple ways we can grow in our faith on our own. There is something more when we grow in our faith with others.

We want to create as many opportunities as possible for you to be part of a group where people know you, your hopes and fears, and where you struggle in your faith. These are people that you can ask, "How is it with your soul?" and you can really tell them.

Accountability, encouragement, care - all these things open our life to God's grace in deep ways and help us love God... and love each other. Being part of a small group focused on spiritual formation is a powerful way to stay connected with Jesus and allow your faith to grow.

### **Invitation**

If you find yourself doubting at times, know that you are in good company and there are things you can do to experience growing faith.

### **Closing Prayer**

Will you pray with me?

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

-----  
*And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.*  
-----

Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.

I trust you with my life.

Help me receive your forgiveness.

Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.

In your holy name, Amen.