

Rowan LeCompte and Irene LeCompte,
Christ shows himself to Thomas, 1615

Thomas Doubt or Faith Quest 多馬的不信或追求

約翰福音 John 20:19–31

During this time working in a
cancer hospital, witnessing how
different people respond to
different stages of cancer has left a
deep impression on me.

What saddens me the most is not those who are overwhelmed with grief or anger—those are very normal human responses to suffering.

What worries me more, however, are often Christians, especially those who cannot speak sentences without mentioning God.

To be clear, there is nothing wrong with trusting in God. The problem is that when someone is clearly in immense suffering, with their emotions on the verge of collapse, they still force themselves to appear composed, maintain a certain “respectability” of faith, and speak words that do not truly express what they feel.

This kind of situation—where one is full of religious language but unwilling to examine their true inner emotions—is called “**spiritual bypass**” in pastoral care.

When people choose to use the language of faith to cover up their deepest emotions, it is like covering a wound with a piece of cloth. And those unprocessed emotions often become like untreated wounds: festering and decaying until one can no longer endure them.

So then, is faith merely something that helps us
“look stronger”?

Or does faith actually allow us to face our
weakness and doubt honestly?

Today, in the first week after Jesus' resurrection, we will examine the interaction between Thomas and the risen Jesus from a pastoral perspective and reconsider the lessons within it.

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Back to the day of Jesus' resurrection. After Mary saw the empty tomb and the risen Jesus, she ran back to the disciples and told them that she had "seen the Lord."

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Prayer

Risen Lord, who brings life out of death, we thank you. Through Thomas's honest doubt, we see that even while we are still weak, you have already entered our lives, becoming a comfort beyond our understanding.

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