

## Third Sunday of Easter (2021)

***“Look at my hands and my feet...touch me and see...”***

Did you ever notice how men tend to choose higher paying careers, like doctor, engineer, or lawyer. While women tend to choose lower paying jobs, like female doctor, female engineer, female lawyer.

Studies show that in jobs historically held by men, men are presumed to be competent, while women often have to prove their competence over and over again.

Men are judged on their *potential*; women are judged on their accomplishments.

Social scientists call this the *“prove it again”* theory. Women often have to provide more evidence of competence than men. in order to be seen as equals. One could argue that Jesus was quite familiar with the *“prove it again!”* bias.

The Gospels are replete with ongoing occurrences of Jesus having to give more and more evidence that he was truly risen from the dead. He must have often thought to himself, “How much proof do these people need?”

The skepticism and mistrust of the disciples is retold over and over again. Why are they who see, hear, and touch, still suspicious and uncertain that Jesus was alive?

If the Evangelists wanted to report only the *good news*, or present the disciples in the best light, then why did they go to such great lengths to tell us that they found it so difficult to believe in the resurrection!

Perhaps, their reason was to give us an example of real people who are so much like us.

We, too, might actually find it hard to believe, defend, and give witness to Christ's Resurrection. However, the depiction of doubt that we see in today's Gospel offers us much hope.

If we sometimes struggle with doubt and are honest enough to acknowledge the struggle, we join the company of those first-century disciples.

Just as Jesus came to meet his disciples on the road to Emmaus, we too can be assured that our Blessed Lord will reveal Himself to us, as well.

Doubt is good whenever it leads us to explore our faith more deeply.

Yes, the disciples were initially skeptical, but, in the end, they come to believe in the resurrection of Jesus. So strong and profound was their faith that each one of them would die a horrible death for their Lord.

Authentic Christian faith is not to be confused with simpleminded gullibility, or instantaneous trust.

Authentic Christian faith is quite intense, often disappointing, and always an adventure—the first fruits fruit of a life-long journey of discovery.

Perhaps, Voltaire said it best: *“Doubt is not pleasant, but certainty is absurd.”*