

right now, this instance; why God is silent on a lot of things or doesn't show his hand or influence when tragedy is at hand on an enormous scale. What about the tsunami, mass murders and killings, constant wars all over the world, genocide, natural disasters, hunger, why does he let people suffer, etc. You and I both know that God has intervened before in human history, i.e. the parting of the Red Sea, defeating Israel's enemies in wars, etc, so why not now?

I'll help answer some of these; God doesn't put his hand out over the world and magically zaps the world and all is made right. He gave us each other, to care for one another, to help, feed, and take care of the sick, the s broken hearted – broken lives – broken people, the lonely, destitute, suffering people. And we can believe this, there will come a day, a

day will come when all will be made right when God in his wisdom will put an end to all the injustices we see happening now. Nothing lasts forever, except God's words.

So for now, our focus should NOT be on what are you doing God, but at what we as human beings are doing to ourselves. God knows what he is doing; he doesn't need our help or questioning about his wonderful Creation. Job tried to ask him that question, and he wasn't happy with the answer, but instead he believed in God and was blessed more than he ever was.

Our gospel lesson is telling us that when we received Jesus with a humble faith, then God's spiritual blessing will flow down to us. Gifts like having the peace of God that passes all understanding, the self assurance of eternal salvation and life with God forever. He even

gives us the right as in verse 23 to forgive or hold back someone's sin.

The Holy Spirit enables us to see Jesus and to feel and know him in body and spirit. We also do that by remembering him in Holy Communion, partaking of Jesus body and blood through the bread and the wine until he comes again for us.

Jesus reveals himself to you in all his glory by dying and hanging on the cross where he defeated death and the Devil. Jesus died so that we could live. And we should live free of fear, doubt and unbelief. Jesus died to overcome our unbelief and doubt. We have been set free. Jesus is alive in you and me! Blessed is he who has not seen yet believes. Amen.

gives us the right as in verse 23 to forgive or hold back someone's sin.

The Holy Spirit enables us to see Jesus and to feel and know him in body and spirit. We also do that by remembering him in Holy Communion, partaking of Jesus body and blood through the bread and the wine until he comes again for us.

Jesus reveals himself to you in all his glory by dying and hanging on the cross where he defeated death and the Devil. Jesus died so that we could live. And we should live free of fear, doubt and unbelief. Jesus died to overcome our unbelief and doubt. We have been set free. Jesus is alive in you and me! Blessed is he who has not seen yet believes. Amen.

15.4. 2012.

DOUBT AND BELIEF.

TEXT: JOHN 20: 19-31

Thomas, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus [aka the Didymus], is the central figure in the gospel lesson today, he takes the role because he wasn't there the first time round when Jesus suddenly appeared to the disciples after he rose from the dead. But on the occasion when he appears to them again, Thomas is among them, hence, the basis for morning's message.

Thomas, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus [aka the Didymus], is the central figure in the gospel lesson today, he takes the role because he wasn't there the first time round when Jesus suddenly appeared to the disciples after he rose from the dead. But on the occasion when he appears to them again, Thomas is among them, hence, the basis for morning's message.

Easter had come and gone, and while it is fresh in your mind, would like o ask you a question of how your Easter celebration was spent? By the look of and your presence here today, it tells me that you got through it all right. In any case, whether it bad or otherwise, was the lingering impression it left upon your mind; if any at all?

Easter had come and gone, and while it is fresh in your mind, would like o ask you a question of how your Easter celebration was spent? By the look of and your presence here today, it tells me that you got through it all right. In any case, whether it bad or otherwise, was the lingering impression it left upon your mind; if any at all?

Did you say to yourself, well that marks another yearly milestone I've together; was something that would cheer your hear and fill that want and need inside you of worshipping together, because some of you became emotional when you spoke. I also pray that this here church had a healthy attendance on that day and that all went well with you good folks.

The last time I was in this neck of the woods, was out at Monarto on Palm Sunday, [Confirmation Day – Murray Bridge] the lead up to Holy Week. I felt that the message went well, only because someone commented that it was nice to see that I kept the Gospel story in context of Jesus riding through the streets of Jerusalem as king, because, it was added that many pastors stray and the themes are always being mixed with the main theme of the Passion/crucifixion. The point of that small bit of information is that



WORDS make a be aware that in this day Creation or Evolution. difference to what we and age, belief in Jesus is You could tell from what convey to each other. not so out there like it selected speakers had to used to be. At times say, where their

Words are at play in people can become hostile allegiance and hearts lay. today's Gospel message, when you mention the But when audience in fact whatever words name of Jesus in love, member's faces were that we articulate to each worship and adoration. shown, there were looks other with, or to groups, Anyone watch Q&A on of bewilderment and congregations, or the ABC the other night? reservation on their faces, audiences etc, can leave The show just consisted when issues like an impact on each other. Of George Pell, the conscience or hell entered In today's gospel reading; Roman Catholic into the discussion. good old 'doubting' Archbishop of Sydney Thomas' words have an versus well-known I found the hell discussion impact. interesting in regards to audience body language. As Christians we are well aware of heaven and hell, and its consequences,

Does God know what he is doing?

Thomas says in verse 25b, "If I do not see in his hands the marks of the nails, and put my finger into the place

where the nails were, and Atheist, Richard Dawkins, because if you're good put my hands into his plus the studio audience you go to one place, and if side, I will never believe!" as well as some shown on you're bad, it's the other And this is quite a video, which provided [reward/punishment]. As profound statement some deep insightful a pastor I know we hardly indeed, in particular when thought provoking preach on the subject speaking of Jesus. I know questions during the church year, a lot of people say, 'how course of the show. I anyway. But regardless; can I believe in something found the whole show the reassuring thing for I can't see?' The obvious interesting. Christians is that our belief and faith in Christ

retort to that is, 'what about the wind, you can't What I took away from has already brought us see it, but you can see it the show was that, people into his kingdom, right blow on trees and waves, were looking for answers now. And unless we and can even feel it on to back up their beliefs if totally reject God and your face. You can't see they were on track or not. walk away from the it, but you believe it's Or maybe listen to some eternal salvation and there, because you can things that would help spiritual gifts he is them make humble faith! imparting to us, then we feel it!'

As many of you may well they believed about of his kingdom forever,

by our own deliberate actions. There is, no one There seemed to be a lot along and love our else to blame, but the of contented, satisfied neighbour as ourselves, person themselves. faces on hearing these etc. The poll came back Everyone is responsible words from someone of with 76% said 'No' and for their own acts, words high authority in the 24% saying 'Yes'. You and deeds. Church. I was worried can make your own mind

that many people may up on that conclusion!
Richard Dawkins wasn't have taken George's too popular with his words in the wrong And if we have the answer that the brain is context to justify their attitude that Thomas had the centre of your life and beliefs. And as I just BEFORE setting his eyes when that dies then comes stated we can't blame and fingers on the risen nothingness. The question others for our actions, Lord Jesus Christ in the I had to that answer was, we're going to be flesh by touching the if you lived a terrible scars in his hands and existence, then what side: would we doubt is there to look too and want definite forward to if life if proof that Jesus is that's the way things alive? Then it was

Believe with humble faith!

George Pell's turn I've got a question for and you could see a accountable for them one you. In your own mind, definite change in people, day. But overall, the taking into account your because if people are Archbishop did well to own life experiences and hedging their bets against keep cool and level- your personal knowledge going to hell, then he headed among a minefield and observations of all provided a way and of loaded questioning, that's going on around escape by religion and jeering, cheering and a you and the way the world belief. He sincerely hoped Pandora's Box of what do is going at the moment: that no one is in hell! He you think about this, or on where is humanity reinforced that God loves that issue or subject? heading?

all people, regardless if they're atheists or not, and A poll was conducted on That's a loaded question I there's no reason why this studio question [I know, or can only God they shouldn't go to wrote it down], "Does alone answer that heaven when he was hard religious belief make the question? Perhaps, you pressed. I put that down to world a better place?" may want to discuss this the Roman Catholic belief question later on over tea in Purgatory, the purging You and I as Christians or a meal. People are of sins with time spent would say a resounding inquisitive and many out there before finally being 'yes' because we observe there in the general admitted into heaven. the law of the land, live populace want to know