



# DOUBT ASSESSMENT

SAGE CHRISTIANITY

*Show mercy to those who doubt (Jude 22). The earliest Christian leaders knew what doubt felt like (Matt. 28:17). Perhaps they learned to show mercy to fellow doubters, because of how kind Jesus had been with them when they doubted him.*

# Jesus was honest

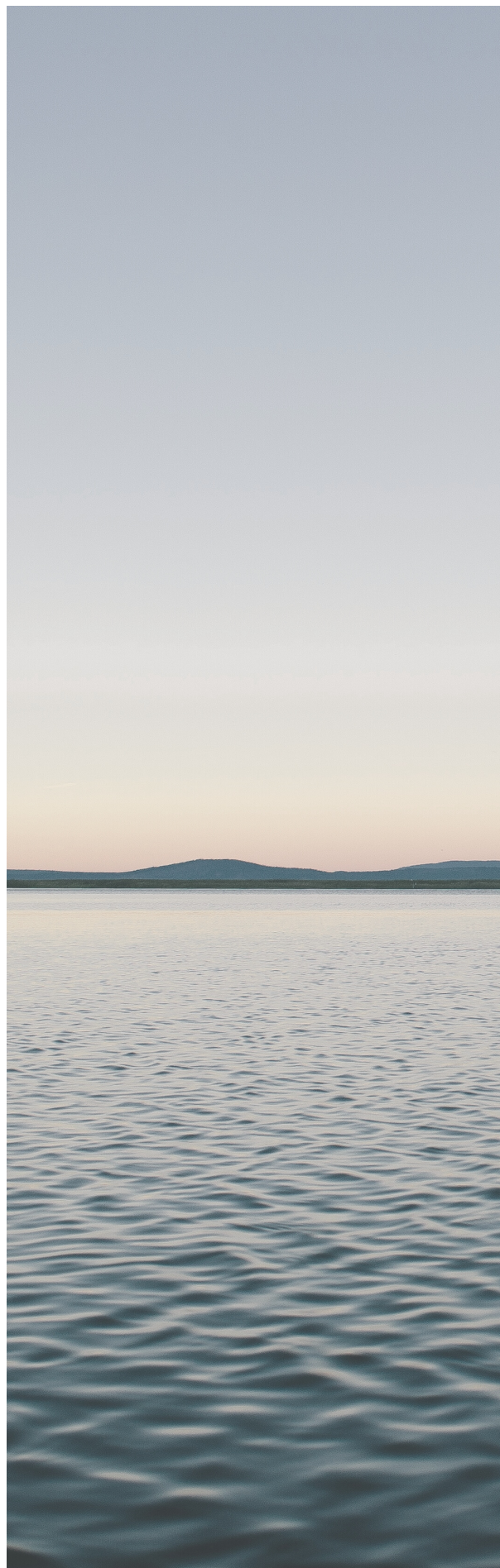
Jesus was honest about the struggle of faith. He told a story about a farmer, seed and soil. In it, we discover six reasons people doubt him (Matt. 13:1-13). The first two, I suppose, we'd think of as intellectual doubts. The latter four are more experiential or emotional sources of doubt.

## 1 INTELLECTUAL DOUBTS ABOUT GOD & THE BIBLICAL STORY:

Jesus spoke of the kingdom of God. He assumed the real existence, relational presence and active knowability of God. Some of us feel no evidence; we experience nothing but absence. God doesn't seem real. We doubt God exists or can be known.

## 2 DOUBTS BECAUSE OF HOW POWER & WEAKNESS ARE USED.

Jesus likened God's kingdom to a tiny, vulnerable seed (rather than a mighty army or towering mountain). Some doubt Jesus' motif of humble weakness as power. It doesn't work in the real world and gives excuse to those who prey upon the vulnerable.







### 3 **DOUBTS BECAUSE OF EVIL, PAIN, HYPOCRISY & SUFFERING.**

Jesus described a gruesome encounter with evil like a bird that ripped a seed out of someone's heart. The existence of pain, hypocrisy, injustice, suffering and evil, cause many of us to doubt.

### 4 **DOUBTS BECAUSE OF FEAR.**

Jesus described threats to those who follow him. We are afraid of being excluded, marginalized, overlooked or physically harmed in the world. Faith costs too much.

### 5 **DOUBTS BECAUSE OF HAPPINESS.**

Jesus exposed the dark side of money, material possessions and preferred lifestyles. We doubt Jesus because he seems to rob of us happy things. We don't want to miss out on the good things of life. We like our lives.

### 6 **DOUBT BECAUSE WE DON'T FIND JESUS APPEALING.**

Finally, Jesus spoke of those who bear the kind of fruit Jesus esteems. Some of us doubt because we simply don't have a taste for Jesus or the life He envisioned as good. Our problem isn't faith, but love. We simply love other messengers, messages and views of the good life more than the one Jesus offers.





## HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE DOUBT THAT TROUBLES YOU OR YOUR FAMILY MEMBER?

If you don't have a safe space to give voice to your doubts and questions, my team and I would welcome hearing from you at:

[experiencingdoubt@sagechristianity.com](mailto:experiencingdoubt@sagechristianity.com)

Or if you are a leader in ministry, share with us at:

[thepastorsabbey@gmail.com](mailto:thepastorsabbey@gmail.com)

Jesus invited the honest prayer of an earnest doubter. We'd welcome praying this prayer with you and for you.

**"I BELIEVE LORD, HELP  
MY UNBELIEF."**