

**Holy Humor Sunday**  
Pastor Greg Briggs, Interim  
April 8, 2018

1. Prayer and Introduction

- a. “May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in your sight, our rock and redeemer.” Amen. (Psalm 19:14)
- b. Sermon - What’s in a Nickname? Holy Humor Sunday

*Mr. and Mrs. King were in the hospital with their newborn baby.*

*"What shall we name him?" she asked.*

*"How about Joseph?" he replied.*

*The nurse with the birth certificate looked at the baby and said: "You've got to be Joe King!"*

2. Getting Stuck in One thing

- a. My friend
  - i. Can be known by what people call him
  - ii. Mark, Skip, Edward, E Mark,
  - iii. Mitch or Mitchell
- b. Nicknames, or names, distinctive, different, helping people feel like they are included

*When my son was born, I wanted to pick an unusual name, and also name him after someone famous. He's definitely the only Spongebob, in his school.*

3. Disciples

- a. Today’s story is how one apostle got his nickname “doubting Thomas”
- b. Not the first to get a nickname, we just haven’t been paying as close attention
  - i. Simon, called Peter \ Rock
  - ii. Andrew and James sons of Thunder
  - iii. Thomas – the twin
  - iv. James the lessor, compared to James, son of Thunder
  - v. Simon the Zealot
- c. Thomas get’s a bad rep. One moment in time

4. Being stuck with old names, old labels

- a. Names you don’t like anymore? Things you did that you aren’t proud of?
- b. Friend since middle school
  - i. Jamie to JR
- c. I have 17 different nicknames
  - i. Not counting the one nick name I’ve had since I was a kid, that I hated – mocked my speech impediment
  - ii. They thought it was cute and endearing – I had to compare it to their own secrets they’d like to leave behind.
  - iii. Mostly stopped now. Mostly

*I got talking to a girl in the front row; I asked her her name. She said, 'It's Pataka.' I said, 'That's an unusual name. You don't hear that every day.' To which she replied, 'Actually, I do.'*

iv. Looking at names from the perspective of the person, not yours

- d. Recognizing Trans person’s name changes and pronoun shifts
  - i. Going from what they were named, to who they are

5. Poor Ol’ Doubting Thomas

- a. Not asking for anything more than what the rest got
  - b. There not to make a point about him, but about us
  - c. Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe." 30 **Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll.** 31 But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.
6. Joy of Easter, and New Life
- a. Leave old ways behind, learn new, joyful ways!

*The [Pope](#) arrives in heaven, where St. Peter awaits him. St. Peter asks who he is.*

*The Pope: "I am the pope."*

*St. Peter: "Who? There's no such name in my book."*

*The Pope: "I'm the representative of [God](#) on Earth."*

*St. Peter: "Does God have a representative? He didn't tell me ..."*

*The Pope: "But I am the leader of the Catholic Church ..."*

*St. Peter: "The Catholic church ... Never heard of it ... Wait, I'll check with the boss."*

*St. Peter walks away through Heaven's Gate to talk with God.*

*St. Peter: "There's a dude standing outside who claims he's your representative on earth."*

*God: "I don't have a representative on earth, not that I know of ... Wait, I'll ask [Jesus](#)." (yells for Jesus)*

*Jesus: "Yes father, what's up?"*

*God and St. Peter explain the situation.*

*Jesus: "Wait, I'll go outside and have a little chat with that fellow."*

*Ten minutes pass and Jesus reenters the room laughing out loud. After a few minutes St. Peter asks Jesus why he's laughing.*

*Jesus: "Remember that fishing club I've started 2000 years ago? It still exists!"*

- b. Don't limit ourselves to one time, one place, one name
- c. More than is written in this scroll!

## Readings

A [burglar](#) broke into a home and was looking around. He heard a soft voice say, "[Jesus](#) is watching you". Thinking it was just his imagination, he continued his search. Again the voice said "Jesus is watching you". He turned his flashlight around and saw a [parrot](#) in a cage.

He asked the parrot if he was the one talking and the parrot said, "yes."

He asked the parrot what his name was and the parrot said, "[Moses](#)."

The burglar asked, "what kind of people would name a parrot Moses?"

The parrot said, "the same kind of people who would name their pit bull Jesus".

Mrs. Peterson phoned the [repairman](#) because her dishwasher quit working. He couldn't accommodate her with an "after-hours" appointment and since she had to go to work, she told him, "I'll leave the key under the mat. Fix the dish washer, leave the bill on the counter, and I'll mail you a check. By the way, I have a large rotweiler inside named [Killer](#); he won't bother you. I also have a [parrot](#), and whatever you do, do not talk to the [bird](#)!"

Well, sure enough the [dog](#), Killer, totally ignored the repairman, but the whole time he was there, the parrot cursed, yelled, screamed, and about drove him nuts.

As he was ready to leave, he couldn't resist saying, "You stupid bird, why don't you shut up!"

To which the bird replied, "Killer, get him!"