

John 4  
July 7

Welcome... visitors connection card- announcements

Update on Czech Team and Greece team

Prayer for them and our hearts.. and me!

Introduction to John...

John 20:30-31 <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

- So John is writing so that you believe, belief is the main theme of the book in fact it appears over 100 times.
- John spends the first 12 Chapters highlighting specific signs that demonstrate that he is the Christ/Messiah. So that we believe in him
- Today I hope to explain a little about that process of belief and faith. Everyone believes in something, Esqueleto " I believe in science"
- What is Faith?
  1. People say faith is a crutch, for a certain type of people, (weak people)
    - a. American Independence misapplied or overapplied
    - b. Pull yourselves up by your bootstraps
  2. I wish I could have faith as though it were a talent (singing, baller, etc...)
  3. Everyone has faith in something...
    - a. People have faith in:
      - i. Money
      - ii. Family
      - iii. Hard work
      - iv. Government (haha)
      - v. Health
      - vi. Spouse
      - vii. Life will continue as it is
      - viii. Intelligence
    - b. None of these are bad they are just a bad place for your ultimate trust
      - i. Money runs out, wiped out, spent on things that don't actually satisfy
      - ii. Family can betrays disappoints or die...
      - iii. Health can fail
      - iv. Spouse can leave or become ill...

On and on..

4. Working definition of faith at the very least it is what you trust in...( to be truth)
  - On a larger level its do you trust in yourself to decide what is truth, what is right, or do you trust in God. (This goes back to Genesis 3 and the decision to trust God or decide for yourself)

- Pilate was cross examining Jesus and he said “for this I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.” Pilate answered him, “What is truth?” and walked out...
  - IF you are of the Truth, you will hear His voice... He will draw you

How do we get it?

Process of faith in anything is **notitia**, assensus, and **fiducia**

1. **We HEAR... think** and gather information
  - a. Nicodemous
  - b. Woman believed, samaritians believed as information came in... Because of His Words
2. **We SEE** and assent or agree based upon thinking
3. **We TRUST /BELIEVE and therefore act** based upon it..
  - a. The woman left her jars, and went to tell others
4. When evidence comes **We KNOW** and faith passes away as fulfilled

Example of a Dr saying you need surgery

- a. (gather information) (Hear)
  - ii. What do you do?
  - iii. Ask second opinion
  - iv. Research
  - v. Getting information
- b. Agree or disagree yes I need surgery... (SEE)
- c. Believe and schedule the surgery
- d. Act based on that (TRUE BELIEF)
  - vi. Get on the gurney
  - vii. Emotions may go nuts
  - viii. Remind ourselves of the facts
- e. After Surgery is done we KNOW if it was right..

**Biblical faith takes a similar path although it can look very different for different people!**

- we have already seen the development of belief in the conversations that Jesus had with Nicodemus and the woman at the well If you missed any, listen online.... This morning we are going to see the further development of faith as Jesus deals with a nobleman whose son is dying.

So we pick up the scripture at the end of Jesus’s trip in **Samaria**

John 4

39-41 “<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

- Samaritans believed b/c of simple testimony she did not have any complex theology or knowledge
- Were hungry for more and asked him to stay
- Believed b/c of his WORD (remember this is a loaded term in the book of John as he calls Jesus the Word.... In the beginning... word became flesh.. Words will equate to life

●  
Vs 43-44

<sup>43</sup>After <sup>α</sup>the two days he departed for Galilee. <sup>α</sup>For Jesus himself had testified <sup>α</sup>that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.

- Hometown, no honor, Joseph's son? Grew up with, super familiar with...
- For (causal ) therefore.. he is going because he has no honor there.. he is not seeking fame, he is not here as an example
- Jesus did not come as an example..
  - He was not gathering numbers
  - He came as a substitute
    - Book of John as biography.. last verses of John

Vs 45-46a

<sup>45</sup>So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, <sup>α</sup>having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For <sup>α</sup>they too had gone to the feast. So he came again to <sup>α</sup>Cana in Galilee, <sup>α</sup>where he had made the water wine

- SO again causal... welcomed not necessarily with honor..but because they wanted to claim their piece of importance as he got famous
  - Wine trick.. healing
- Recognition and importance by association with someone important
  - LT, Kobe, Kyle Anderson

Vs46b-47

<sup>46</sup>. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. <sup>47</sup>When this man heard that Jesus <sup>α</sup>had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

- Official \_ Basilikous- of the royal court – and **official of the king**. Herod Antipas
- What would cause this important man to walk 15-25 miles to see an uneducated carpenter's son?
  - Desperation
  - Humbled
  - Begging
- HEARD

How does Jesus respond?

No doubt with gentle encouragement and compassion.. come unto me all you who...

<sup>48</sup><sup>48</sup>So Jesus said to him, <sup>α</sup>“Unless you<sup>3</sup> see signs and wonders you will not believe.”

- Rebuke/ Rebuff,
- Y'all
- **Could be simultaneous rebuke of crowd and test of man's faith**

- similar to the cannanite woman who asked Matthew 15
- SEE... then Believe

49 The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

- Not offended
- Not entitled

50a Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.”

If it was a test, he passed...

Genuine faith, born from suffering and desperation...

whether you get here through reasoning or desperation the journey can look very similar

How does the man respond?

50b “The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.

- BELIEVED
- Action... He Went on his way
- Would you have that faith? To leave and walk away from the only way that you could think of for your son to survive?

51-54 <sup>51</sup>As he was going down, his servants<sup>4</sup> met him and told him that his son was recovering. <sup>52</sup>So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour<sup>2</sup> the fever left him.” <sup>53</sup>The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” And he himself believed, <sup>54</sup>and all his household. <sup>54</sup><sup>2</sup>This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

- Yesterday... he stayed over night he was at peace in his encounter with Jesus the Christ,
- He could rest before the evidence.
- But the proof of Christ’s perfect power comes he heals at a distance.
- BELIEVED...second time he now KNOWS

So this scripture shows us a process of faith **Hear, See, Believe, Know**

Applications

About God

1. Jesus does not respond as you think or expect.
  - a. Here he is harsh in his rebuke yet, he still has grace and compassion to heal the boy and give them a sign!
  - b. Not always gentle and calm, often provoking and offputting
  - c. But He always responds exactly as the person or people to whom he is speaking or those who are listening need
2. God does not do things in the way you think they should be done
  - a. Man wants him to come, he has heard of healings happening when he lays hands on people or they touch him,

b. Christ says no I will not come, I will heal him from here

### 3. God has the ultimate power

- a. He heals with a word, he is the word,
- b. “He upholds (sustains) the universe by the power of his word” Heb1
- c. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being..’ Acts 17
- d.
- e. Because of his words they believed...

#### About Us?

### 1. We need to have faith

a. based on evidence

- i. Ravi Zacharias, “God has put enough in to this world to make faith in Him a most reasonable thing. But he has left enough out to make it impossible to live by reason alone. Faith and reason must always work together in that plausible blend.”

b. Biblical faith

- i. Scripture: “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1...
- ii. Biblical Hope is a forward-looking expectation of what is coming
- iii. It is a Gift “For by Grace you are saved through faith, and this faith not of yourselves it is a gift of God; not as a result of works so that no one may boast.” Ephesians
- iv. If it hasn’t changed you; you need to go back to the beginning, what is the Gospel? Galatians (Paul correcting false teachers that came in and said you need to be saved by grace through faith AND follow xyz rules... You foolish Galatians who has bewitched you..having begun by the Spirit are you now being perfected by the flesh?

### 2. Faith is often a result of suffering or trials

- a. Shows us we have no control, or answers in our own wisdom
  - i. Noble official was desperate
- b. When everything in life is going swimmingly we are often distracted, or arrogant
  - i. Don’t see need for savior
  - ii. Think that we can trust ourselves to decide what is right wrong (moral compass)
  - iii. We can go years, decades, lifetime w/o realizing the incoherence or incongruity of our worldview
- c. James consider it all joy my brothers when you face trials of many kinds...
  - i. Rest before the evidence... before you see your son healed..
    - 1. HEBREWS 11:13 “<sup>13</sup>All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

### 3. Seek Jesus because he is Truth

- a. I am skeptic
  - i. John 6:68 “To whom would we go? You Have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”
  - ii. Are we guilty like the Galileans of wanting to claim association with and benefit from the power of Jesus without actually putting our ultimate trust for salvation and right standing with God... In cultures where it could cost you your life to be associated with Him would you fall away? Can you Say “Where else would I go?”

Closing,

- Are you in a trial or suffering through pain? (if not its coming) where are you placing your trust?
  - If you have seen Christ, remind yourself and be transformed by the renewing of your mind. If you haven't check to see in what or whom you are placing your trust and realize it will let you down!
- If you are still not asking who Jesus is or claiming there is no evidence you are being disingenuous, or lazy. I was there! More than a carpenter, Reason for God, Gospel of John
- 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.
  - He is knocking he is seeking you.. be overwhelmed by his beauty and truth