

“A Year with Jesus”

Week 7, February 14th, John 4:46-54

//What makes you believe in something? Things like evidence, feelings, the testimony of others you trust, upbringing, and personal history, all might play a role in what we choose to believe. Which of these do you think are most influential in your life?

More than any other, the gospel of John is interested in belief (John 3:16; “that whoever believes in him...”). John’s interest is not simply that we believe, but the nature of our belief as well.

//Read John 4:46-54

Once you’ve read the story, take a moment, read it again, and identify what most stands out to you. Journal and pray through your thoughts.

The royal official and his family’s belief is of great importance to John in this story. The “sign/wonder” worked in the son’s life and the connection to the timing of the healing bring about belief, just as we might expect. Yet, tucked away in the story is a unique statement. Look again at vs. 48. The question, maybe even the struggle Jesus carries with him, is why people believe.

//Look through your life of faith to this point and identify the signs/wonders you’ve experienced. This is any time where you’ve seen God work with his power in your life or the lives of others, no matter how big or small that work of God may be. *Reflect on these memories.*

- What role has signs/wonders played in the development of your faith? Take time to offer thanks as you reflect on these truths.
- Have there been moments when the lack of signs/wonders caused you to doubt or ask questions of God? As these come to mind, take time to reflect on them in prayer.

Although signs/wonders play an important role in our faith, there is a sense in John that faith can not rest on these alone. The foundation of our belief is Jesus, who the signs point to, not the signs themselves. John even gives a shout out to all of us in history who believe without seeing him face to face (see the story in John 20:24-29).

- If there were no signs/wonders, and we only had Jesus, who he is and what he’s done, would that be enough for belief?
- What are the truths about Jesus that you hold to, that provide a foundation for your faith? Identify and reflect on each truth.

- Pause and take time to offer thanks for these foundational truths of Jesus in your life.

Close your time by looking again at John 20:29, and here Jesus calling you blessed for believing.