

Call to Worship.

Psalm 91:1-4 (The Faithfulness of God.)

He is Exalted.
El Shaddi.
And Can it Be.

Doctrinal Teaching; Faithfulness.

Lam. 3:22-23

I Love You Lord
Rock Of Ages
You've Already Won

Offering and Offering Prayer.

Pastoral Prayer.

Sermon Text. John 20:24-31 - The Purpose of the Gospel of John; Faith in Christ.

'But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord! But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them, Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands, and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.'

I. Intro.

Diagnostic questions are what can be called the 5 W's. Who, What, When, Where, Why?

In this passage, at the end of John 20, we get to the overarching Diagnostic Question of the Gospel of John. WHY?!

We know who the Gospel of John is about; Jesus Christ.

We know what the Gospel of John is about: Jesus Christ.

We know when and where the account about Jesus Christ took place.

But now we get to the WHY? Why all of this detail? Why all of this accounting for this place and that?

Why spend 3 years detailing the accounts of Jesus 3 year ministry?

Why look for a month at the Prologue of John, verses 1-18?

Why look in painstaking detail at the Wedding of Cana? The Miracles at Samaria, Bethsadia, Capernaum, Galilee, Bethany, and Jerusalem?

Why Look at these things?

Why bring before our eyes the unpleasant details of the rejection of Jesus Christ?

Why spend so much time considering the trials of Jesus by the Sanhedrin and the Romans?

Why look for 8 months at the Upper Room discourses?

Why spend 2 full months, and over 10 hrs, considering the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus Christ?

Why would we do any of this stuff? What's the point?

It is seen right here in the very last verse of John 20:31 'so that you might believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God'

Why? The purpose is the salvation of your soul.

Why? The purpose is evangelistic. Every detail, every nook, every grain, every fact, is more deposits of truth to put into your bank of faith.

Why? It is done for the purpose of Winning Souls.

Why? It is done for the purpose of Evangelism.

Why? It is done for the purpose of Discipleship.

My goodness, if the disciples lived with Jesus, and heard every sermon of Jesus, and they required no closing of the historical gaps, or the language gaps, or the cultural gaps, and the Scripture says 'they still didn't understand'....How much more us!

II. Body of the Sermon.

ΠΙΣΤΕΥΩ/pisteuo - believing, faith.

50 times in the Gospel of John, John talks about this belief.

There are evidences throughout the Gospel of John that tell us what the results are of this belief.

- Jn 1:7 He came as a witness/John the Baptist, to bear witness about the light, that all **might believe** through him.
- Jn 1:12 But to all who did receive him, **who believed** in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,
- Jn 1:50 Jesus answered him/Nathaniel , “Because I said to you , ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ **do you believe?** You will see greater things than these.”
- Jn 2:11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples **believed** in him. -
- Jn 2:22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and **they believed** the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.The Resurrection
- Jn 2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many **believed** in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.
- Jn 3:12 If I have told you earthly things and **you do not believe**, how **can you believe** if I tell you heavenly things? -Jesus veiled Divine Truth inside the earthly parables.

- Jn 3:15 whoever **believes** will have eternal life.
- Jn 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever **believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- Jn 3:18 Whoever **believes** in him is not condemned, but whoever **does not believe** is condemned already, because **he has not believed** in the name of the only Son of God.

- Jn 3:36 **Whoever believes** in the Son has eternal life ; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- Jn 4:21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, **believe** me , the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.
- Jn 4:39 Many Samaritans from that town **believed** in him because of the woman’s testimony , “He told me all that I ever did.” -Because she had been told the truth about her sin! Talk about breaking down all of the cultural bubbles, talk about cutting to the chase.

If you did what Jesus did to people today, I can tell you what would happen. You want to know what will happen. They will hate you (for my Namesake). They will, as Jesus Said, ‘throw you out of their synagogue’

If you did what Jesus did, they will hate you, slander you, accuse you, scheme against you, blame you. How do I know? 1. The Scripture tells us. 2. The Prophets and Apostles lives are proof of this. 3 I’ve already personally experienced it with regularity.

They will call you and infer presumptions onto you.
They will watch and wait and

You see, if Jesus didn't do what He did her, the woman at the well wouldn't have come to faith.

Jesus' opposition comes from the self-righteous, not so much the unrighteous who are looking for hope and redemption.

If you did what Jesus did to the woman at the well, one of two things will always happen, you will either win a soul for eternity, or you will incur an enemy for the sake of Christ.

It's kind of like this:

Are you an Ameri-CAN or an Ameri-CAN'T

Are you a Saint or an Ain't

Do you want to give a man a fish or giving him a fishing pole?

Do want to build your own brand or have the brand markings of the Lord Jesus on your own Soul.

This business of Christian business is serious business.

As a matter of fact, it is a business that will never go out of business.

It is a business that always runs a Divine profit.

It is a business that has all of its own advertising.

It requires no Research and Development department.

It is not in search for a CEO or new board.

As matter of fact, the Christian business is board of the board.

The Holy Spirit of God is board with the board.

The board needs to walk the board and walk right off the plank.

Because if you look in your Bible you'll never find a Board in a Church. If a Church is run by a Board then its NOT run by the BIBLE.

The B.I.B.L.E., yes that's the book for me, I stand alone on the word of God, The B.I.B.L.E.

The NT is rock-stock, clear that Elders run churches, and Elders are Pastors, and Pastors are Shepherds, and Shepherds are Responsible, and People who are Responsible are Leaders and Leaders are those who 'set an example' for the those among them, and those among them begin to quickly catch on and that's called a Congregation, and Congregation begins to tell a community, and Community begins to become awe-inspired by the Divine Work of the Holy Spirit.

AND....it all started asking for drink of water at a well.

Well, well, well...here we are in John 4 and it says 'many ore believed'.

Jn 4:41 And many more **believed** because of his word.

Jn 4:42 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." -

You're testimony is NOT the Gospel, the Gospel is what gives you a testimony. It is the Testimony of Jesus Christ that is the Spirit of Prophecy.

Jn 4:48 So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders **you will not believe.**"

- Jn 4:50 Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man **believed** the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.
- Jn 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and **believes** him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
- Jn 5:38 and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you **do not believe** the one whom he has sent.
- Jn 5:44 How can you **believe**, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?
- Jn 5:46 For if **you believed** Moses, **you would believe** me; for he wrote of me.
- Jn 5:46 For if **you believed** Moses, **you would believe** me; for he wrote of me.
- Jn 5:47 But if **you do not believe** his writings, how **will you believe** my words?"
- Jn 5:47 But if **you do not believe** his writings, how **will you believe** my words?"
- Jn 6:29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that **you believe** in him whom he has sent."
- Jn 6:30 So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and **believe** you? What work do you perform?"
- Jn 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever **believes** in me shall never thirst.
- Jn 6:36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet **do not believe**.
- Jn 6:40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and **believes** in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."
- Jn 6:47 Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever believes** has eternal life.
- Jn 6:64 But there are some of you who **do not believe.**" (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were **who did not believe**, and who it was who would betray him.)
- Jn 6:64 But there are some of you who **do not believe.**" (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were **who did not believe**, and who it was who would betray him.)
- Jn 6:69 and we **have believed**, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."
- Jn 7:5 For not even his brothers **believed** in him.
- Jn 7:31 Yet many of the people **believed** in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"
- Jn 7:38 **Whoever believes** in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"
- Jn 7:39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those **who believed** in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
- Jn 7:48 **Have** any of the authorities or the Pharisees **believed** in him?
- Jn 8:24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless **you believe** that I am he you will die in your sins."
- Jn 8:30 As he was saying these things, many **believed** in him.
- Jn 8:31 So Jesus said to the Jews **who had believed** him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
- Jn 8:45 But because I tell the truth, **you do not believe** me.

Jn 8:46 Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why **do** you not **believe** me?

Jn 9:18 The Jews **did** not **believe** that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

Jn 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "**Do** you **believe** in the Son of Man?"

Jn 9:36 He answered , "And who is he, sir, that **I may believe** in him?"

Jn 9:38 He said, "Lord, **I believe**," and he worshiped him.

Jn 10:25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and **you do** not **believe**. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me,

Jn 10:26 but you **do** not **believe** because you are not among my sheep.

Jn 10:37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then **do** not **believe** me;

Jn 10:38 but if I do them, even though **you do** not **believe** me, **believe** the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

Jn 10:38 but if I do them, even though **you do** not **believe** me, **believe** the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

Jn 10:42 And many **believed** in him there.

Jn 11:15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that **you may believe**. But let us go to him."

Jn 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. **Whoever believes** in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

Jn 11:26 and everyone who lives and **believes** in me shall never die. **Do you believe** this?"

Jn 11:26 and everyone who lives and **believes** in me shall never die. **Do you believe** this?"

Jn 11:27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I **believe** that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Jn 11:40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if **you believed** you would see the glory of God?"

Jn 11:42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that **they may believe** that you sent me."

Jn 11:45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, **believed** in him,

Jn 11:48 If we let him go on like this, everyone **will believe** in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

Jn 12:11 because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and **believing** in Jesus.

Jn 12:36 While you have the light, **believe** in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

Jn 12:37 Though he had done so many signs before them, **they still did** not **believe** in him,

Jn 12:38 so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who **has believed** what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

Jn 12:39 Therefore they could not **believe**. For again Isaiah said,

Jn 12:42 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities **believed** in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;

Jn 12:44 And Jesus cried out and said, "**Whoever believes** in me, **believes** not in me but in him who sent me.

- Jn 12:44 And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.
- Jn 12:46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.
- Jn 13:19 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.
- Jn 14:1 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.
- Jn 14:1 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.
- Jn 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.
- Jn 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.
- Jn 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.
- Jn 14:12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.
- Jn 14:29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.
- Jn 16:9 concerning sin , because they do not believe in me;
- Jn 16:27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.
- Jn 16:30 Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.”
- Jn 16:31 Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe?
- Jn 17:8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.
- Jn 17:20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
- Jn 17:21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
- Jn 19:35 He who saw it has borne witness — his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth— that you also may believe.
- Jn 20:8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;
- Jn 20:25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”
- Jn 20:29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
- Jn 20:29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
- Jn 20:31 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.
- Jn 20:31 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.

III. Exposition.

V. 24 'But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.'

We don't know what Thomas was doing at that particular time, we just know he was not present for the initial witnessing of the resurrection.

The name, Didymus, is the Greek word for twin. Thomas was a twin.

V. 25 'So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord! But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.'

Unless you show me, I won't believe.

I won't take you at your word - I'm from Missouri, I live in the Show Me State. You better show me for me to believe.

But, Thomas is asking a lot. He's asking a lot here. Who can claim to have been given such evidence as this? Hands in Jesus hands? That's asking a lot.

You won't believe what your brothers in Christ have told? You're a Burger King Christian? You gotta Have It Your Way?

It might be possible to cast Thomas as the perpetual doubter. To cast him in a negative light, but the truth is we all wrestle with doubts.

And the reality is, Thomas' character is not totally seen as a portrait of doubt.

In John 11, Thomas displays courage and loyalty.

But this is the reality, we each as Christian disciples **struggle with our flesh**. The flesh expresses itself in a number of ways.

Doubt. Disbelief. A lack of loyalty. A lack of courage. A lack of faithfulness. A lack of devotion.

From time to time, we struggle with our own lack of understanding, we pray for our unbelief.

We ask for God to make a way in our faith when it seems like there is no way.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we should be wise and discerning to encourage each other, to build each other, to have a song in our heart to inspire people to a richer Christian life.

And, as kind and as loving as Jesus Christ is, He condescends. He condescends even to give this evidence to Thomas.

V. 26 'After eighth days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

After eighth days.

It's a little over a week later.

Two-weeks prior, Jesus had raised Lazarus from the grave. Two Friday's prior Jesus had been crucified. Three days after that, Jesus was resurrection.

And now it has been about 8 days after this event. Jesus has been growing somewhere around Israel, where not told exactly where.

Jesus came.

Jesus walks through a closed door or wall again a week later. And He says the same thing.

Peace be with you.

3x in this discourse in John20, Jesus has greeted them with this Peace. Shalom. Eirene.

Your peace is closed connected to your faith. Your peace will be a result of Your faith.

Where you put your faith will determine the lasting of your peace.

A man-centered faith will have a man-developed peace.

A Christ-centered faith will have a Christ-grounded peace.

'Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee' Is. 26:3

'The LORD, will establish peace for us' Is. 26:12

We actually don't even establish the peace, we just believe in it. We have faith unto righteousness that develops peace in our life.

'Let him rely on My protection, Let him make peace with Me' Is. 27:5

Oh how often we lack peace because of our focus on the circumstances of mankind.

How often do we exchange the peace of God for the quarrels of mankind?

'What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious

and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives.' James. 4:1-3

Holy Character ensures prayers are Wholly Answered.

Where do we put our trust? In horses and chariots? In schemes, in management techniques? OR do we place our trust in Christ and let the chips fall where they may.

The Christian must be wed to Christ.

And it has been said before in marriage, that marriage can be a lot like playing cards.

At the beginning, all you need is two hearts and a diamond.

But by the end, you might need a club and a spade.

Well, I can tell you, when you come to faith in Christ, He will give you peace, but that peace is not a promise of an absence of conflicts.

As a matter of fact, when you come to faith in Christ, as a young Christian it might seem like a honeymoon.

But just wait, after many moons, the honey will expire, and there will be warfare.

You do not have to seek it, it will seek you.

You do not have to fight it, it will fight you.

And I would tell you, don't even worry yourself about getting dealt a club or a spade, because if you are in Christ you are already holding a **hand full of Aces!**

The deck is stacked in your favor! No it is not cheating. It is called Providence.

God has determined that you have an Ace in the Hole.

God has determined that all you place their faith in Christ will have peace everlasting and joy everlasting in His present.

Sometimes, you just got to wait your turn. You have to remember that the 'wealth of the wicked is stored up for the righteous.'

You have to be reminded that when Daniel prayed it took the Angel 21 days to deliver the answered prayer because the Angel had to fight devil for 3 weeks.

You have to be reminded that when Peter was in prison, it was the angel that fetched Peter out of prison, but it was prayer that fetched angel.

Let the double-blind pass, let the fool double-down. You already know where your help comes from.

'Wait on the LORD, and He will renew your strength, You will run and not grow weary, You will walk and not grow faint.' Is. 40:31

"No weapon formed against you will prosper"

Don't let yourself fall into doubting.

Fall into believing. Fall into encouraging.. Fall into faith. Fall into peace. Fall into love.

You know, somebody told me one time, it actually takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile.

Now, you already know you don't like to workout, why put the extra effort in. Just smile!

But don't let you flesh set in. Put a limit on it.

I don't get it sometimes. Some people treat doubt like it's a family pet.

They will act like they have to keep it around, and feed it, and give it attention. They have tell people about it. Then their schedule gets dictated by it.

It just doesn't have to be that way.

'As a man thinks in his heart, so shall he become.' Prov. 23:7

As disciples we each struggle with our own fallen nature. Doubt is only another expression of the flesh.

Let me tell you a story before we get back to v. 27.

It's baseball season. We started practice this past week. And where having fun. We're learning we're growing. We're throwing, we're swinging. We're doing it all.

And it reminded me of a story. A story about Mr. October. Reggie Jackson.

Reggie Jackson is known in Major League Baseball history as Mr. October. October is when the World Series is played and Reggie Jackson, in one World Series, playing for the NY Yankees, hit 3 consecutive home runs in one game. To led them to win the World Series.

That's incredible right! That's incredible that a man who 6' tall, 200lbs, could take a bat, swing it three times and hit the ball over the fence three times in a row. That's incredible isn't it!?

What if I told you, that Reggie Jackson is known as Mr. October, for hitting those 3 consecutive Home Runs, and that is how he is remembered.

But Reggie Jackson actually has the most strike out in MLB history. He has 2,597 strikeouts.

Now in order to strike out, you have to swing the bat 3 times and miss the ball.

$2,597 \times 3 = 7,791$. That means that Reggie Jackson swung the bat almost 8000 times and missed the ball.

BUT, he is remembered for NOT missing the ball only 3 times!!!!

Now some people would say, Oh that's incredible he hit a home run 3 consecutive times.

NO that is not what is incredible. What is incredible is that he made the decision to continue to swing the bat after missing the ball 8000 times!

To me, that is an incredible amount of faith! Not to mention, the man must love doing the task. Because nobody in the world would continue to do something like that if they hated doing the task.

Jackson must love baseball and love it so much that he would believe in faith despite getting negative results!!!!

I had a mentor in the Army one time, he told me early on, He said, if you quit once you'll be a quitter the rest of your life.

I had another man, he was my BN CDR, he Dave you don't have to like it, you have to love it.

Friends, you don't have to like the Christian faith to live it.

You don't have to like the Bible to read it.

You don't have to like other Christians to spend time with them.

You have to Love them. You have to Love the Bible. You have to Love Christ. And because you love Christ, you continue swinging at the pitch. Because you love the Bible, you continue to return to its pages. Because you love God's people you continue to care for them and spend time with them.

Love and Faith. Love and Belief. Love and Belief and Action are directly tied together in package deal.

And yeah, I agree, you don't always get the results you were hoping for. BUT, God Bless America, we don't get the results that we actually deserve.

And even still, if you and I remain faithful, there is yet to be seen, the Bumper Crops, in October.

We do not know the harvests that God might bring, but we know the God of the Harvest.

And friends, trusting Him is a matter of faith.

V. 27-28 "Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Now I think this is something very important to consider. Q: When is a person saved? Is a person saved at the point of faith?

We are not saved by our faith, but our faith is an expression that we are saved.

Nathaniel needed a prophetic statement of being under the fig tree and a positive affirmation of his character, 'a Jew in which there is no deceit' - to come to follow Christ.

In John 2, John the Baptist needed the affirmation of His faithful ministry and he chose to 'decrease so Christ would increase'

In John 3, Nicodemus needed a lecture on Regeneration.

In John 4, The Samaritan Woman needed conviction of her sin.

In John 5, The Man at the pool of Bethesda needed the kindness of Christ to believe.

In John 6, Peter need his faith tested by the defection of thousands of false converts where Peter states 'where would I go you have the words of eternal life'

In John 8, the Adulterous Woman needed Jesus to defend her against the accusations of the self-righteous and settle the matter for her faith by saying 'go and sin no more'

In John 9, the Blind Man needed Jesus to heal him of blindness to literally see and believe.

John 11, Jesus needed to raise a dead man for many to come to faith, so much so, that the Pharisees said, 'if He continues this everyone in the nation will believe' - BUT Jesus, knowing the true source of salvation states, 'no there are some that even if a man raises from the dead, they still will not believe'

In John 19, The theft on the cross needed the event of his own capital punishment to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

In John 20, Thomas needed evidence to come to faith in the resurrection.

Paul says, for the sake of the Gospel I became all things to all people. 1 Cor. 9

Who are you to spend time with a known adulterous? Who are you to spend time with a convicted felony? Who are you to spend time with the least of these?

Look what Paul says about it.

1 Cor. 9:1 'Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have i not seen Jesus our Lord?...My defense to thsoe who examine me is this: Do we not have the right to eat and drink?...For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more...I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.'

Friends, Win Sinners! Make friends with Sinners, NOT so that you sin, but so you help them STOP SINNING!

When were these people saved? At the moment of their personal faith OR had the moment already been determined before the foundation of the world.

And the God who sees, and the God who tests the hearts of men, knows all and sees all, and He is working through the Lord Jesus Christ to reconcile men and women to Himself.

That in spite of themselves, Jesus Christ is going to save them.

That despite the crimes of a man committed to the death penalty, Christ has already determined to save him.

That despite the affairs of the woman, Jesus condescended for a drink of water and brought her to faith.

Despite the Pious Walk of Nathaniel, Jesus one-upped him, with a prophetic statement that could only come from the Almighty. - How would He know that?

Friends, Jesus is the Divine Carpenter...

He knows just how much, to turn the screw, to secure the faith.

He knows how to make a hang-nail draw you to prayer.

He knows how to 'Toe-nail' the finish work of your life to button it up real nice.

He knows how to make a biscuit-joiner better than buttermilk and jelly.

He knows how to make all the permits of your life go through.

He knows how to get the contracts that are needed to care for your life.

He knows where you need remodeled, and park-modeled, AND, where you've gotten molded, AND you thought you needed crown-molding, BUT He's fitting you up for a crown you can't get at Home Depot.

He's gonna build something in your life, you wouldn't even know the Blue-prints.

But don't worry, the Lord Jesus is gonna take you trade school.

You might of thought you were done with school. But the Lord Jesus is gonna take you to church.

He's gonna make the world His perish. And He's gonna take His perishsioners and He's going take this little light mine and let shine.

And it is only a matter of time before the whole house of the Gentiles is brought into the Faith of Jesus Christ.

Friends, do not be afraid to become all things to all people.

Slaves. Friends. Family.

That's what Christ calls us. He says, John 13, we are slaves and He is our Master, He says in John 15, we are His friends, He says in John 20, we are His family members.

Friends let's make friends with people. Let's Win Souls, and make friends for eternity.

V. 29 'Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

Believing Because of Seeing or Believing because of Hearing?

Look at the Pattern given in Rom. 10.

Faith comes from hearing. Hearing comes from Preaching. Preaching must come from the Word of God.

A clearly explained and understood presentation of the Word of God to the hearers.

That is where Faith is developed.

I know it is popular today to say that 'My faith is awaken on 2 am truck rides' or 'I just like going for hikes in the woods' and that's how I connect with God. Well, unfortunately, that's not how the Bible says Faith is exercised or how it is developed.

Faith, if it is Christian Faith, is given by hearing the Word of God. Because hearing the word of God is God's way of communicating to us.

Rom. 10:8-14 'But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (Deut. 30:14) - that is, **the word of faith which we are preaching** that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. (It must be believed, it must be confessed, but in order for it to be believed and to be confessed, it must first be heard, and the only way for it to be heard is for it to be preached.)

V. 11 'For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." (Is. 28:16) For there is no distinction between Jew or Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Joel 2:32).

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard?

How will they pray to Christ if they don't believe in Christ? How will they have a genuine Christian relationship with Jesus Christ if they don't even believe in Him.

This is the heart of John's Gospel message. This is the heart of every message, is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and follow Him.

Blessed are they who believe and have not seen.

IV. Application.

V. 30-31 'Therefore many others signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.'

Therefore.

Many other signs.

Miracles. Many other ones. The Miracles are not the attainment of our faith, they are the authentication of His Ministry and Deity.

In the presence of the disciples.

So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

As a result -

Have life in His name.

Life. ζωη / Zoe.

It did a very detailed study on this word in the greek. It means life.

All life, true living, the kind of living that really lives it up, it all comes from faith in Christ.

That is it's origin.

V. Conclusion.

Preaching leads to Hearing. Hearing leads to Believing. Believing leads to Doing.

Faith leads to Faithfulness which leads to Fruitfulness all determined in God's timing. Let's pray.

Pastoral Prayer.

Benediction.

Psalm 121:7-8

Closing Prayer.