



Believe Hard to Believe

Pastor Kevin Suess & Pastor Jon Velasquez
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John 1:29 & 35-36, NET

*“On the next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, **the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**” Again the next day John was standing there with two of his disciples. Gazing at Jesus as he walked by, he said, “Look, **the Lamb of God!**””*

John 1:35-42

*“Again the next day John was standing there with two of his disciples. Gazing at Jesus as he walked by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” When John’s two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Jesus turned around and saw them following and said to them, “What do you want?” So they said to him, “**Rabbi**” (which is translated Teacher), “where are you staying?” Jesus answered, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. Now it was about four o’clock in the afternoon.*

*Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, “We have found the **Messiah!**” (which is translated Christ). Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, the son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).”*

John 1:47-51

*“Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and exclaimed, “Look, a true Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “How do you know me?” Jesus replied, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the **Son of God; you are the king of Israel!**”*

*Jesus said to him, “Because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” He continued, “I tell all of you the solemn truth— you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the **Son of Man.**””*

John 3:1-9

*“Now there was a **Pharisee**, a man named **Nicodemus** who was a **member of the Jewish ruling council**. He came to Jesus at night and said, “**Rabbi**, we know that you are a teacher who has **come from God**. For **no one could** perform the signs you are doing **if God were not with him**.”*

*Jesus replied, “**Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again**.”*

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

*Jesus answered, “**Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit**. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘**You (Plural) must be born again**.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. **So it is with everyone born of the Spirit**.”*

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.”

Ezekiel 36:25-27

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

1 Peter 1:3-5

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

John 3:10-12

*“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? **Very truly I tell you**, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. **I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?**”*

-If the concept is simple, what then was the challenge for Nicodemus?

-What was hard to believe? And how does it relate to us?

Ask Yourself:

-What is it I believe?

-Am I willing to have my world turned upside down?

-To walk away from whatever Jesus is calling me to?

-Am I willing to put my complete trust and confidence in Jesus, even when it is hard to understand, follow or BELIEVE?

John 6:39-40, NET

*“For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. Now this is the will of the one who sent me—**that I should not lose one person** of every one he has given me, but raise them all up at the last day. For this is the will of my Father—for everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him to have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

John 6:52-59, NET

*“Then the Jews who were hostile to Jesus began to argue with one another, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “I tell you the solemn truth, **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in yourselves.** The one who **eats** my flesh and **drinks** my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. The one who **eats** my flesh and **drinks** my blood resides in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so the one who consumes me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the bread your ancestors ate, but then later died. The one who eats this bread will live forever.”*

John 6:66-69, NET

*“After this **many of his disciples quit following him** and did not accompany him any longer. So Jesus said to the twelve, “You don’t want to go away too, do you?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life. **We have come to believe** and to know that you are the Holy One of God!”*

Luke 22:19-20

“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”