

Do You Believe...This?

Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25,26

Big Idea: A whole lot of people believe a whole lot of different things but Jesus confronts us with the truth and asks, "do you believe this?" If we really believe the truth we will also receive the Truth – Jesus Himself!

Jesus had thousands of followers who believed in Him as long as He took care of their needs. But as His enemies stepped up their threats against Him and His followers, the crowds began to thin. After explaining His impending death to His inner circle of disciples, He asked them "*Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone*" (John 16:31,32).

This is what they would soon learn and what we can now learn about "believing":

1. Seeing is Believing

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" John 20:26b-28

If something is believable, it must also be rational and reasonable. The mind is often the doorway to the soul. Something very real happened to this group of once disillusioned, disheartened, deserting disciples to turn them into an unstoppable force who turned their world right-side up in a few short years (Acts 4:18-20). The dramatic change in these eyewitnesses provides the most compelling evidence that Jesus did in fact live, die, and rise from the dead. People don't lay down their lives for a liar, a lunatic, or a legend. The only other conclusion is that Jesus is exactly who He said he is – Jesus is Lord!

2. Believing is Seeing

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29 (see also 17:20,21)

Seeing is not enough. Everyone who can see this incredibly beautiful and complex world should be able to figure out that there is a God (Romans 1:19,20). Logic should lead them to understand that this God must have had a purpose for Creation and must have communicated that purpose to those He created. And yet many do not believe, while still others believe but it makes no difference to them (James 2:19). At some point, belief moves beyond the mind to the soul, where it becomes the kind of faith that moves us to action.

3. Believing is Receiving

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 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. John 20:30,31

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12

The first step in activating faith is to receive Jesus into your life. Truth is more than just a collection of facts. It is embodied in one person, Jesus, who said, "*I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me*" (John 14:6).

Do you believe this?