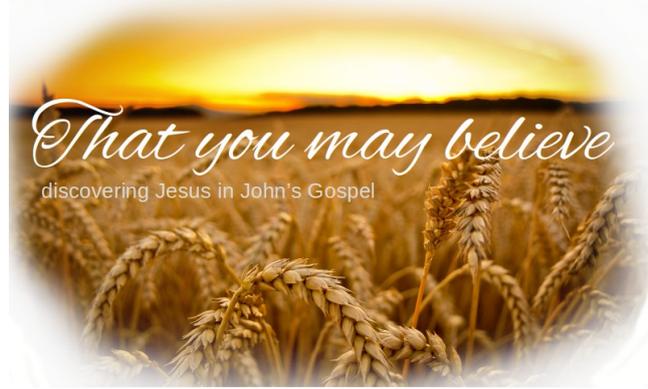


Week 8: Believe



I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

The Weight of Glory – C.S. Lewis

John tells us that he wrote his account of Jesus' life so that we may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He writes his eye witness accounts of seven events in the three years that John spent with Jesus. He recalls how many put their trust in Jesus, only to fall away later and he himself ran away when Jesus was killed on a Roman cross.

Read John 19:28-20:8

1. What are the indications in the passage, that it was all over?
2. Is there anything in the passage that suggests anyone thought there was a hope that Jesus was alive?
3. So what was it that John saw when he looked into the empty tomb that made him believe?
4. After all that John had heard and seen, after all the time he spent with Jesus, right at the end John believed. Can you point to the time when you realised who Jesus is?
5. Spend some time going over those events and write down the details. Perhaps share your thought with others.

Deeper In

Just before he died on the cross Jesus spoke these words, "It is finished." The Greek word that John chose to use was Τετέλεσται (tetelestai). Perhaps that was the exact word Jesus spoke. It has a variety of meanings, "finished" and "complete" are the most simple definitions, however it was a trading term that was frequently used to denote "full payment". Preachers will often use that definition to describe how Jesus paid the full price for all our sin on the cross.

And then there is the face cloth. If that was folded the way Jesus might have folded a cloth used to wipe away the sweat of his labours in the workshop, to indicate that the work was over and the job done. What does that say?

- What further work was to be done after the cross, that Jesus completed?
- Why is it important to know that this work was completed too?
(If you need a hint Hebrews 2:14-15 will help)

Read 20:19-31

The disciples are back together, they have been told to get out there and they have received the Holy Spirit. Verses 29-31 might be the end of the story.

- Looking back over the series, which of the signs most spoke to you?
- The seven miracles John chose are not illustrations to Jesus' teaching, they tell us who Jesus is. Each one calls us to trust Jesus in different areas of life. Which for you was the most challenging?
- The call on us to trust Jesus will change as we face different challenges in our lives. What are the things that will help you and your journey through life?

Next Time: John 21:15-23 What about you?