



Some People Will Never Believe

MAIN THING

Unbelief is the result of a rebellious heart, not of a lack of evidence

SCRIPTURE

Luke 7:18-35, Romans 8:5-8, Luke 16:27-31

ICEBREAKER

A restaurant that everyone else likes but I think isn't all that great is

OPENING THOUGHT

By this point in time, Jesus' ministry had been going for awhile and people were seeing the results of it. Blind people were seeing. Crippled people were walking. Lepers were cleansed. Deaf people were hearing. The gospel was being preached. Jesus' ministry was public- there was nothing private about it. Everyone could see what He had been doing. It was undeniable.

However, there were many who simply didn't believe- even though they could see everything He was doing. This is because no amount of evidence will convince a rebellious heart that is against God. That's why Peter and Judas had the same pastor, heard the same teachings, saw the same miracles- and Peter became the Rock upon which the church was built, and Judas betrayed Him to the authorities. It's not just the message- it is the situation of the heart that hears it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. What was your reaction to the video with atheist and unbeliever Richard Dawkins? Do you think that his views are more prevalent in the church and in society than we would like to admit?
3. The sermon said that ultimately, we choose what we believe, no more and no less. What areas of your life have you blocked Jesus from? The areas where you have told Jesus, "You can go THIS far, but no further"?

LIFE APPLICATION

Jesus clearly tells us here that the rebellious heart will accept no evidence, regardless of how good or right or true it is. Like Pharaoh seeing Egypt being destroyed by the plagues, the rebellious heart hardens itself against evidence and truth and continues in its unbelief, no matter what the cost it seems. If this is you, or someone you know, we need to understand two things: 1) this is the natural state of the heart before God- this is the default. 2) The person is incapable of changing that heart without the work of the Holy Spirit. We can't change our rebellious hearts. Only God, through the Holy Spirit, can.

CHALLENGE

If there are areas of your life where you have rejected the authority of God and have told Him "no" no matter what the evidence, it's time to surrender that area to God. We choose what we believe, we choose what we accept, and if you are a believer in Christ today, it's because you chose to. If you aren't, it's because you have chosen NOT to. The evidence is there, but only the surrendered heart will see it. The rebellious heart will reject it, no matter what it says.