**The Gospel of John:**

**Jesus’ thought about Doubters**

*John 4:43-45*

**John 4:43-45**—After the two days He went forth from there into Galilee. **44**For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. **45**So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves also went to the feast.

**Context**

The Good News of the kingdom was to be offered first to Israel. The Jews were the primary focus of Jesus’ earthly ministry. However, they did not receive Him. “*He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him”* (John 1:11). The issue of belief is a repeated theme is John’s gospel account. The people were commanded to believe in His Son.

The gospel is not only the good news of God’s salvation to lost sinners, but it is a commandment to be obeyed. You must believe what He has said and what He has done (by faith)—particularly though the person and work of God’s son—the Lord Jesus Christ. To doubt that truth results in judgment and separation from God for eternity.

**John 20:31**—…*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.*

**Luke 24:47**—**…***and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.*

**Acts 3:26**—*For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.*

**Acts 13:46**—*Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.*

**Romans 1:16**—*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

**Matthew 10:5-6**—*These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;****6****but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

**Matthew 15:24**—*But He answered and said, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”*

**Truths to Consider Related to Belief**

Unbelief is the damning sin that sends people to hell. Every other sin can be forgiven.

1. You must BELIEVE in order to be saved

**Acts 4:12**—And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

**John 14:6**—*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

**John 1:12**—*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name*

**John 3:16-18**—*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.****17****For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.****18****He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

**John 6:28-30**—*Therefore they said to Him, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?”****29****Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”****30****So they said to Him, “What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?*

**John 12:44-45**—*And Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me.****45****He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me.*

1. What happens when you DO believe?
* Your sins are forgiven eternally

**1 John 1:9**—*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
* You become a child of God

**John 12:36**—*While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light.*

* You receive the righteousness of Christ

**1 Corinthians 1:30**—*But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption*

* Eternal life is yours

**Romans 6:23**—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
* You will never come under Divine judgment
* You will never experience the second death

**Revelation 21:8**—*But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*

* You become a partaker of the resurrection

**John 11:25**—*Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies*

* The Holy Spirit indwells you

**John 7:38**—*He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.*

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22**—*Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God,****22****who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a [*[*l*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+cor+1&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28823l)*]pledge.*

**Ephesians 1:13-4**—*In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,****14****who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

**Jesus expected Unbelief**

1. **Prophets have no honor at home**

***A prophet has no honor in his own country****—this is a stark contrast to Jesus’ reception with the Samaritans living in Sychar.*

***Luke 4:24****—And He said, “Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown.*

*At first glance it seems somewhat perplexing that Jesus went to Galilee because, as He Himself testified, He would receive no honor there. The point, however, is that Jesus was not taken by surprise when many in His home region rejected Him. He went there knowing that He would be given a cold reception.[[1]](#footnote-1)*

*Quesnel remarks, “it is an instance of self-denial which is very uncommon, to leave those who respect and applaud us, that we may go to preach among others from whom we have reason to expect a quite different treatment.” [[2]](#footnote-2)*

1. **Yet, His hometown folks “received” Him**
2. This does not mean that their reception of Him was salvific
3. At an earlier time in Jerusalem, they saw the miracles done

**John 2:23**—*Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing*

1. They were curious and wanted the sensational
2. Their reception was superficial and shallow

**Application**

* Do you have a genuine belief in the deity and savings work of Christ on your behalf or are you wanting to see what He can do for you?
* Is Jesus relegated to the “cleaner-upper” or fixer vs the Savior and Lord of my life.

**Galatians 2:20**—*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

**Luke 6:46**—“*Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?*

1. The MacArthur new Testament Commentary, John 1-11, John MacArthur, p.165. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. John, Vol 1: Expository Thoughts on the Gospels, JC Ryle, p.180 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)