

So That You May Believe; John 20:30-31

I. Do you believe?

- a. If you don't, why not?
- b. Think of the many things that we do not see yet have evidence of their existence or happening.
 - i. Gravity and wind.
 - ii. Fossils of extinct animals.
- c. Did events in our history really occur?
 - i. How do we know the holocaust happened? Some say it is just a hoax.
 - ii. We have books like Anne Frank's Diary, Schindler's List, and biographies of people that lived during that time.
 - iii. But some people still try to rewrite history,
 1. They use phrases like "The victors write the history books."
 2. They just tell lies - (a movement is trying to tell us that our country was not founded on Christian principles).
 - iv. No matter what anyone does or says, we know the holocaust happened because of the abundant evidence.
- d. We know God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the world's sin-bearer because of the abundant evidence.
- e. Many try to "rewrite" history with their expert opinions and scholarly books written many years later, but we have eyewitness accounts recorded.
- f. Some people have a problem with the miraculous nature of these eyewitness accounts.

II. Thomas' Unbelief

- a. Thomas had a problem.
 - i. John 20:24–29 (ESV) ²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
 - ii. Many witnessed Jesus' appearance after his resurrection.
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 (ESV) ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

- iv. While those who were witnesses of the crucifixion and the 500 that saw Him after the resurrection saw the marks of the nails and the spear, we are not.
- b. We, like Thomas, doubt
 - i. This doubt is the context of John's statement.
 - ii. John 20:30–31 (ESV) ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ 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.
 - iii. We have gotten it entirely backward. We tend not to believe because of the miraculous nature of the Christ.
 - iv. But John tells us that His miraculous nature is supposed to help us believe!
- c. Jesus didn't perform signs and miracles for no reason; he always had a purpose.

III. The Man Born Blind

- a. John 9:1–3 (ESV) ¹ As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.
- b. The sole purpose of this man's blindness was manifested at this very moment. All those years he spent blindly groping about, begging for alms, and suffering are about to come to fruition.
- c. The purpose of his blindness is so that Jesus can heal him, allowing those around him to believe.
 - i. John 9:8–11 (ESV) ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight."
 - ii. John 9:35–41 (ESV) ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.
- d. The purpose; see and believe.
- e. The Pharisees saw and didn't believe - their "guilt remains."

IV. The Official's Son

- a. We must note that Jesus is in Cana, where he had already performed a miracle by turning water into wine.
 - i. John 4:46–47 (ESV) ⁴⁶ So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

- ii. It is about 16 miles from Cana to Capernaum (Plainview to Hale Center).
 - iii. John 4:49–53 (ESV) ⁴⁹ The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believed the word Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. ⁵¹ As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. ⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” ⁵³ The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” And he himself believed, and all his household.
- b. The result of this miracle is the official and his household’s belief!
- V. Lazarus
- a. John 11:1–4 (ESV) ¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”
 - b. Lazarus died so that they would believe!
 - i. John 11:14–15 (ESV) ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”
 - ii. John 11:38–45 (ESV) ³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,
 - c. The resurrection of Lazarus reminds me of the Rich man and Lazarus, when Jesus said, “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.” (Luke 16:31)
- VI. Do You Believe?
- a. We must stop trying to explain away the miracles of Jesus.
 - b. We, as a society, always try to explain away things we don’t understand.
 - i. We see this happening in science.
 - ii. The age of the earth has changed to fit scientists’ theories on evolution.
 - c. We must get over our preconceived ideas about miraculous events.
 - d. We must see John’s statement for what it is.
 - i. A plea for us to see the miracles for what they are, miracles!
 - ii. A plea for us to see Jesus as the worker of those miracles!
 - iii. A plea for us to see Jesus as the savior of humanity!

- e. John 20:31; 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.