

# Belief and Unbelief

## I. Invitations Extended

Luke 5:3-9 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For **he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,**

Mark 4:38-41 (NIV)

<sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" <sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" <sup>41</sup> They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

## II. Believe/Faith IN Jesus

John 2:11 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and **his disciples put their faith in him.**

### A. Refused

John 12:35-37 (NIV)

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup> Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them. <sup>37</sup> Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, **they still would not believe in him.**

Mark 16:9-11 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup> [Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. <sup>10</sup> She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. <sup>11</sup> **When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.**

### B. Fumbled

Matthew 18:5-6 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup> "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; <sup>6</sup> but whoever causes one of these little **ones who believe in Me to stumble**, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

### C. Easily Forgotten

Judges 2:8-11 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of a hundred and ten. <sup>9</sup> And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. <sup>10</sup> After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, **another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.** <sup>11</sup> Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals.

### III. Investing in Belief

Deuteronomy 16:16-17 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the LORD empty-handed: <sup>17</sup> Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.

#### A. 3 Pilgrimage Feasts

1. Passover
2. Shavuot (Pentecost)
3. Feast of Tabernacles

#### B. Outcomes

1. obedience/yielding
2. experience
3. heritage

### The Apostle's Creed

**I believe** in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;  
    who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
    was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hades; the third day He rose again from the dead:  
    He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God,  
        the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe** in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,  
    the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
    and the life everlasting.

Amen.

#### Prayer

Heavenly Father, help my unbelief. May the word of God come alive within me as never before. As we pray and seek your face, confirm your word in our midst. May the power of God be made evident ---convict, heal, restore and deliver. Our hope is in you, our God and our redeemer. May the name of Jesus be glorified in our generation, it is in his name we pray. Amen.