

Come and See

- Intro – recap last week, then introduce “Believe.”
- **“What do you mean, ‘believe?’”** Objections and concerns...
 - Unscientific
 - ancient/foreign bible
 - culturally and morally regressive?
 - challenge of other religions - arrogant to be certain in a pluralistic global community?
 - By “believe,” do you mean that I have to jump all the way from where I am *in a moment* to card-carrying weirdo with all the life and beliefs you have?
 - Don’t you just believe because you were born into this? And if that’s true, *how can I be sure* if it isn’t just a trick of upbringing?

How did Jesus invite people to believe?

John 1:35-51 ³⁵ The next day again John [the Baptist] was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ).

⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

- **Hans Denck** – “No one can truly know Christ unless he follows him in life. And no one can truly follow Christ unless he first knows him.”

- **Come and See**
 - “Come” – An invitation to a journey. A call to follow Jesus, as you are, from right where you are, as ... you.
 - “See” – You don’t have to take my word for it. Experience Jesus first hand. If what I believe about his resurrection is true, He’s completely available for you to *see for yourself*.
- Come as you are; Learn on the journey
- **Conversations in Community** – an honest and healthy community that isn’t scared of genuine truth-seekers’ questions
- **Answers Exist!** Non-Christians don’t have a monopoly on truth or intellect.
- **Believe only Truth.** Luke was a doctor. As such he was, as doctors are, acquainted with people who got sick and then developed whole systems of treating themselves with “cures” that cured nothing, but the evidence didn’t shake the person’s faith.

Luke 1:1-4 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

- Luke doesn’t want Theophilus to ignore facts. He wants him to be sure of them. Christian faith is about living in reality, not avoiding it. Real faith wants the facts and is allergic to a lack of evidence
- Christian faith is built on historical actions seen and told by eyewitnesses. It isn’t vague spiritual ideas that can’t be verified or tested.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 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.

- If Christianity were true, wouldn’t you want to know? I would. I’d be really disappointed, but I’d still want to know.
- All people form beliefs on the basis of evidence. We’re supposed to.
- **Bob Tuttle’s Professor Story**...one way to deal with “doubt.”
- **“Well, Tim, I don’t know why you’re soft-pedaling the command to believe. Unbelief is a sin.”**
 - **Uncertainty vs. Unbelief** – *Uncertainty* has to do with not yet coming to clearly discover what exists. *Unbelief* is distrusting God once He’s made himself known.
- **Light and Accountability**
- Respond to the light you have, more will be given

- God reveals himself in stages, over time, little by little, starting where each person is.
- **Erwin McManus** – “God is going to make it snow.”
- God reveals himself to those who truly want to know the truth about Him

- **Luke 11:9-10** ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.
- **Owning Faith** – “faith of my fathers”
 - there comes a time when we take it apart and try to understand how it works, how we came to it, whether it is true, whether it works, how it compares to other people’s worldviews...this is normal.
 - I was baptized at 15 but I hadn’t yet owned my faith – I was a cultural Christian more than a disciple who’d been called and said, “Ok, let’s go.” That came later.
- **My Journey** to Believe
 - **Innate Appetites for truth, goodness, beauty** that created “unbelief” in religion first, then in my secular hedonism, and they led me to spirituality and God.
 - **Cousin Keith** – conversation in the mountains...
 - **Sunset** Experience...
- **“I wish I could believe that.” You can. See for yourself. Come and see.**