

# Hearing the Voice of Jesus: What it Means to Follow Him Today

January 6, 2016

“Believe Me”



# Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **November 11—“Follow Me”**
- **November 18—“Listen to Me”**
- **November 25—[Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner]**



# Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **December 2—“Understand Me”**
- **December 9—“Crowd Me”**
- **December 16—“Touch Me”**
- **December 23—“Interrupt Me”**
- **December 30—“Fear Me”**



# Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **January 6—“Believe Me”**
- **January 13—“Pray with Me”**
- **January 20—“Suffer with Me”**
- **January 27—“Preach Me”**



# December 23—“Believe Me”

## Introduction

- Belief is central to the Christian faith. What does it mean to believe in Jesus?
- Belief and faith are the crux of letter to the Hebrews.
- John has often been called the Gospel of Belief.



# Introduction



- **Crucial for Christians have ongoing faith and belief.**
- **Constantly challenged by Life's difficulties.**
- **Jesus' ministry offered teachings, healings, miracles, signs that were designed to engender belief.**
- **Important lesson because of the relationship between knowledge and faith**

# DEFINITION OF FAITH & BELIEF

- **Hebrews 11:1**
- **5 ways that faith (*pistis*) is used in the New Testament**



# SIGNS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

- **“Sign” connected with belief in John’s gospel.**
- **17 times that signs appear in John’s gospel**
- **John 20:30 function relative to belief**





# “Believe” in John’s gospel

- Verb “to believe” is used around 12 times in each of the first three gospels: **Matthew, Mark & Luke.** John uses it 96 times!
- **John 1:7** first time in John
- **John 20:29, 31** last use of the verb in John’s gospel

# Challenges to belief

- Thomas in **20:27** is identified as unbelieving (*apistos*)
- Denial of evidence before us
- No extant mss. of eyewitness accounts
- Apparent anachronisms and differences in gospel accounts



# Elements of belief

- **Trust**
- **Trail left by invisible**
- **Realm of the impossible**
- **Blessed are those have not seen an yet believe—see John 20:29**
- **Deep knowing is spiritual knowledge as opposed to empirical knowledge. Again, Thomas exemplifies this.**



# Conclusion

- Do we truly believe in Jesus?
- What is the “evidence” for believing in Jesus?
- **look at “faith” in Heb 11**

