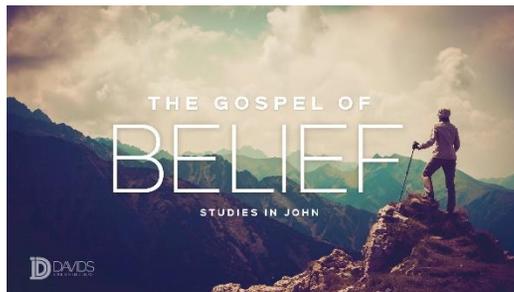


It is not difficult in our world to get a person interested in the message of the Gospel; it is terrifically difficult to sustain the interest. Millions of people in our culture make decisions for Christ, but there is a dreadful attrition rate. Many claim to have been born again, but the evidence for mature Christian discipleship is slim. In our kind of culture anything, even news about God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly; but when it loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is a great market for religious experience in our world, there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness.

Eugene Patterson



Next Week: John 7:1-24

“Offended by Jesus”
John 6:60-71

June 4, 2017
The Gospel of Belief



Offensive Things Jesus Said:

I. The PROBLEM: _____

People who think they are Christians but aren't.

Matthew 7:22-23 *On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

Acts 1:15 *In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120)*

⇒ Greatest liar in your life is _____

⇒ Crowd believes Jesus is:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What we believe does not have to be true to be satisfying, we only need to believe it

II. The SOLUTION: _____

Jesus uses His teaching to offend & to drive away false disciples!

⇒ Jesus' Claims in chapter 6:

He is _____ He is _____
He is _____ He is _____
He must be _____
He will only _____

⇒ It is Jesus' offensiveness that makes Him _____

⇒ The Grumbling Crowd:

1. Give us another _____! (30-31)
2. Jesus did not _____! (41-42)
3. I'm not eating _____! (52)
4. This is too _____! (60-61)
5. Miracles are not enough, I'm leaving! (66)

GK Chesterton: *Christianity has not been tried and found wanting, it has been found difficult and left untried.*

⇒ Jesus' Rebuke:

1. They have not _____ (62)
2. They do not have _____ (63)
3. They are not _____ (64-65)

III. The RESULT: _____

Jesus' goal is to weed out false disciples & strengthen true disciples.

1. Most will _____ (66, 70-71)

2. Some will _____ (67-69)

⇒ Believe Jesus _____ (68)

CS Lewis *I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.*

⇒ Believe Jesus _____ (69)

John 18:9 *Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one*

Closing Questions

1. Are you self-deceived? (*How would you know?*)
2. Have you ever been offended by Jesus?
3. Do you know the meaning of communion?

Tim Keller: *We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.*