

BELIEF & UNBELIEF

As preached on Sunday, April 19th

Read: John 12:37-50

1. John begins this section by discussing how there were many who still would not believe in Jesus despite the signs he'd performed in their presence. What signs has Jesus performed in this gospel? Take a moment to list them here.
2. Why do you think these people, eyewitnesses to Jesus' miracles, will not believe? What is holding them back?
3. We're also told that many people are choosing to believe in Jesus (vv.42-43). However, these believers would not openly acknowledge their faith. Why? What do you think about this? What does an individual believer lose when they keep their faith a secret? What do their friends, family, and co-workers lose?
4. We are given a summary of Jesus' ministry in vv.44-50. What stands out to you in this summary? Do you feel that these verses sufficiently summarize Jesus' ministry? If not, what's missing?
5. In v.47 Jesus emphasizes that he has not come to judge the world but to save the world. Yet, in v.48 he indicates that the words he has spoken will condemn some on the last day. How can both of these statements be true?
6. We spoke on Sunday about the difference between a warning and a judgment. What was that difference? How does this apply to vv.47-48? Can you think of a way this same principle works in other areas of life?
7. There are some who feel that true grace means that "anything goes"... Yet, the Bible teaches us that God loves us too much to leave us without warning of the consequences. How can each of us, as followers of Jesus, share God's grace-filled warning with the world without becoming judgmental?