

Sermon Text: John 7

Sermon Title: The Reward of Believing

ProPresenter

A Story In Three Parts

Part 1: The Faces of Unbelief

Cite: 7:1-13

Examples:

- Unbelief masquerading as belief (4)
- Unbelief as wild accusation (12, 20)
- Unbelief as non-committal wonder (15, 46)
- Unbelief as a "know-it-all" (27, 41-42, 52)
- Unbelief as self-deception (7)

Two Takeaways:

- Unbelievers should recognize the phenomenon of "presentable reasons"
- Believers should respect where other people are at...but have no respect for lame reasons

Part 2: The Root of Unbelief

Cite: 7:14-36

Examples:

- We are alienated from God the Father (28-29)
- We don't want God (16-19; Romans 3:11; 9:30-31)

Takeaways:

- You don't have all the time in the world to decide (34)
- When you are alarmed at the state of the world, remember Jesus is the master of timing

Part 3: The Reward of Belief

Cite: 7:37-52

The call of verses 37-39 presents Jesus as the fulfillment of centuries worth of anticipation

Background:

- Genesis: A river flowed out of Eden - a Garden Temple - to aid man in their work of expanding the garden (and the glory of God) to the ends of the earth (Genesis 2)
- 1 Kings: Solomon's Temple design inspired by Eden - the place where God's Spirit dwelled (1 Kings 6)
- The Expectation of the Prophets: A vision of water flowing "out of the temple" until it becomes a river, nourishing God's land and healing the nations (Ezekiel 47:1-12; Zechariah 14:8; Joel 3:18)
- Revelation: The "river of the water of life" flows from God and yielding fruitfulness for the trees and "healing for the nations" (Revelation 22)
- Jesus in John 7: The "river" is God's Holy Spirit dwelling in and flowing out of God's people for the healing of the nations.

So, the reward of belief is more of God:

- Fellowship with God
- New, restored, redeemed desires that make us fruitful
- Fellowship in a new creation - the nations healed
- Power to serve and bless others