



## Come. Follow. Me. Jesus' Invitation of Life

### #2 – Come and Believe (John 6:35)

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#### Jesus's Main Message was for People to Believe.

1. Jesus began His public ministry with an announcement, a command, and an \_\_\_\_\_.

*"After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!'"* – Mark 1:14-15 (New International Version)

- a. The "kingdom of God" is the reign and rule of God. While the "evil one" rules this physical realm (1 John 5:19), Jesus clarifies that the kingdom of God is not a located, political empire with physical boundaries (Luke 17:20-21). It is a spiritual reality we must believe, and \_\_\_\_\_, rather than "see" (2 Corinthians 4:18; 5:7).
- b. Repent means to change your mind (thinking) and then act \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. The "good news" (lit. = "gospel") is to be believed, which means to be accepted as true and worthy of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Jesus associated many key spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ with believing.

- a. Believing in Jesus brings us into the light of knowing God rather than living in ignorance of darkness.

*"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."* – John 12:46 (NIV)

- b. Believing Jesus is how we \_\_\_\_\_ God the Father (John 14:7-9).

*"Then Jesus cried out, 'Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.'"* – John 12:44-45 (NIV)

- c. Believing Jesus's words changes our \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."* – John 5:24 (NIV)

- d. Believing in Jesus is the mechanism by which we are allowed into eternity *with* God rather than *apart* from God (all through His gracious goodness – Ephesians 2:8-9).

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."* – John 3:16-18 (NIV)

3. Belief, however, as advocated by Jesus, is not to be limited to facts or even certain truths. Jesus calls people to believe \_\_\_\_\_ Him. This means He Himself - who He is and all He has done, is doing, and will do - is the focus of our belief. Through this belief (\_\_\_\_\_ ) in Jesus...

- a. We have life after \_\_\_\_\_ death.

*"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"* 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'" – John 11:25-27 (NIV)

- b. We are spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ in this life.

*"Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'"* – John 6:35 (NIV)

- c. We are \_\_\_\_\_ to God Himself through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit (Galatians 4:6; Romans 5:5).

*"Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."* – John 7:38-39 (NIV)

#### Why is Belief So Important to God...and to us?

1. In the time before Jesus, God the Father interacted with the world through covenants with His people (e.g., Noah, Abraham, Moses). A covenant is a relationship agreement (deeper than a contract) where both sides pledge \_\_\_\_\_ to one another. In all these prior covenants, only God was faithful.

*"The Lord says: 'These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.'"* – Isaiah 29:13 (NIV)

2. God has always wanted the heart. Belief, while intimately connected to the mind because of the necessity of the will to accept certain things as true, is ultimately an issue of the heart. We \_\_\_\_\_ what we truly believe, regardless of what we may say. Real belief automatically produces obedience to Jesus's Lordship.

*"This is the message of faith that we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation."* – Romans 10:8b-10 (Christian Standard Bible)

3. Every work of God in your life will \_\_\_\_\_ to believing in Jesus.

*Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?' Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.'"* – John 6:28-29 (NIV)