

BELIEVING THE UNBELIEVABLE

Luke 24:1-12

INTRODUCTION:

- A. To accept or consider something believable, some must have firsthand experience, otherwise they are skeptical.
- B. Consider what's not experienced as unbelievable.
- C. Causes many to say Christianity requires believing in the unbelievable. (as they view "unbelievable")
- D. Read Jesus walking on water (Matt 14:22-33). They have not & don't know any who has. Therefore, it's unbelievable. On the other hand, we who believe the New Testament account are viewed as believing the unbelievable.
- E. Examine how we are asked, and expected, to believe the unbelievable. Lk 24:1-12

DISCUSSION:

I. BIBLE ASKS US TO BELIEVE THE UNBELIEVABLE

- A. Bible definition of faith Heb 11:1
 1. Lack of personal experience acknowledged yet faith is still expected to exist..
 2. Not surprising. After all, how hard is it to believe something you have personally experienced?
 3. Look at Thomas Jhn 20:24-29
 - a. Thomas "unbelieving" ["faithless", KJV] Jhn 20:27
 - b. He did not have personal experience Jhn 20:25
 - c. Greater to believe in unseen than what is seen Jhn 20:29
- B. Rendering in the ASV (1901) of Heb 11:1 is interesting.
 1. "Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen."
 2. Evidence intended to convict - based on unseen.
- C. To have "Bible faith" we are expected to believe what the world considers unbelievable.

II. EXAMPLES OF THIS KIND OF FAITH

- A. Noah Heb 11:7
 1. God warned Noah "of things not yet seen."
 2. No one had ever seen a flood Gen 6:17
 3. Possible had never even rained Gen 2:4-6 (unbelievable)
 4. By faith Noah did as God commanded
- B. Abraham and Sarah Heb 11:8
 1. Leave home, live as stranger in foreign land, would inherit (unbelievable) Gen 12:1; Heb 11:9
 3. Abraham did, by faith, what God commanded
- C. Sarah Heb 11:11
 1. Knew she was past child-bearing age Gen 18:10-11
 - a. Both laughed when they heard Gen 17:17; 18:12

- b. Knew their physical condition (unbelievable)
 2. Yet, by faith they did as God commanded.
- D. Abraham again Heb 11:17
 1. Aware of promises concerning Isaac Gen 21:12
 2. Sacrifice Isaac he obeyed (unbelievable) Gen 22:1-3
 3. Angel stayed Abraham's hand Gen 22:10-12
 4. Abraham's faith is impressive Heb 11:19
 - a. God keeps promises - promise was to Isaac
 - b. God would keep promise by raising him
- E. Moses Heb 11:27
 1. Son of Pharaoh's daughter Ex 2:10; Heb 11:24
 2. As such treated as a prince of Egypt Acts 7:22
 3. Chose different life with people of Israel Heb 11:25
 - a. All he had ever seen was suffering among Israel
 - b. Yet these were God's chosen - (unbelievable)
 4. By faith, Moses did as God commanded
- F. Israelites Heb 11:29
 1. Long time to get Israel out of Egypt, but it happened
 2. Against Red Sea with the army in pursuit Ex 14
 3. Impossible to cross (aprox 2 million) Ex 14:22 (unbelievable)
 4. By faith Israel crossed Red sea
- G. They believed God, obeyed & blessed

III. BUT WE SEE JESUS. Heb 2:9 (fulfillment of Psa 8:1-9)

- A. What we are to believe in Him spelled out 1Cor 15:3-4
 1. Many crucified - thieves crucified not unbelievable
 2. Many buried in tombs cut in hills - not unbelievable
 3. Tomb found empty, seemed to be beyond belief.
 4. Risen from dead. Matt 28:6 appeared to over 500 1Cor 15:6 far too many to dismiss as unbelievable
- B. Resurrection proof of being Son of God Rom 1:4. Son of God never raised before or since. Why Him? Why a man of such low birth and such a humble existence? Because this was God's plan to save the world from sin
- C. There are so many more proofs. Rom 10:17
 1. Prophecies. Lk 24:44; Psa 16:9-11; Acts 2:24-32
 2. Works He did. Jhn 20:30-31
- D. Since our faith is in God, these are very believable.

CONCLUSION:

- A. To repent (change one's life) not an impossible request.
- B. One believing in Christ, would be willing to confess Him.
- C. Baptized for remission of sins a small matter to do by faith.
- D. Be like Abraham, who, by faith, "waited for city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Heb 11:10

from an outline by Terry Sanders revised by jlh