

JOHN WK9- WORDS + WORKS

Intro/Welcome

-Illustration/Connection: What's a lie you believed was true for way too long?

- Santa/Easter bunny
- gum stays in your stomach for 7 years
- cracking knuckles gives you arthritis

(Share a story from your own experience: when you found out you believed a lie and how you felt)- Parents told me microwaves cause cancer

We're all been there and been in a moment where we thought we knew something so well, we were sure we had it down and figured out, just to find out we were wrong the whole time.

- The only thing worse than believing a lie is never coming to know the truth
- Think about how you lived differently because you believed a lie, whether big or small

-We can begin to believe in subtle lies that change and influence the way we live and the way we see the world

- some of these lies can influence and impact the way we see Jesus
- There were some subtle lies and misconceptions that affected the way people saw Jesus when he was here on this earth, and impacted the way they put their faith in him:

-John 4:43-50 "At the end of the two days, Jesus went on to Galilee. **44** He himself had said that a prophet is not honored in his own hometown. **45** Yet the Galileans welcomed him, for they had been in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration and had seen everything he did there.

46 As he traveled through Galilee, he came to Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose son was very sick. **47** When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son, who was about to die.

48 Jesus asked, "Will you never believe in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?" **49** The official pleaded, "Lord, please come now before my little boy dies." **50** Then Jesus told him, "Go back home. Your son will live!" And the man believed what Jesus said and started home.

Tonight the title of my message is “Words + Works” and I want us to talk about the 3 types of faith we see in this passage, and what kind we should have here today. Before we do that, let’s pray.

(Pray)

Message

In this story we see Jesus have a sort of homecoming, and for a lot of people, this is a fun, awesome and exciting experience

- going back to your hometown after being away at college or simply having just moved away is great
- you feel like a celebrity, everyone wants to see you again, talk to you, catch up, etc.

-For Jesus, he knew that he would be honored everywhere EXCEPT his hometown

- v.45- says they welcomed him

- Isn’t this a contradiction?

We’ll see later on throughout this passage what Jesus was referring to was true, he wasn’t honored in his hometown, but even in this verse it says “they welcomed him”

This shows us our first type of faith: **Familiar Faith**

-Jesus was welcomed but he wasn’t honored. Jesus was welcomed for being a familiar face

- The Galileans thought they knew everything there was to know about Jesus so they didn’t honor him as he deserved

- the lie they believed was that they knew everything about Jesus

- Really they didn’t just have a “familiar faith”, they had a “false familiarity”. they had seen him around and recognized him, they thought they knew all they needed to, so they welcomed him

Some of us often “welcome” Jesus because he’s familiar. We’ve grown up in church, we’ve read the Bible, heard all the stories and sermons, etc.

-But just like the people in Jesus’ hometown it stops here. We don’t honor Jesus with out whole lives because he’s the son of God and who he is, we just welcome him because he’s familiar

-These people thought they knew Jesus and everything there was to know about him, so they lived their lives accordingly.

-Just like the lies we talked about that we believed earlier, big or small it affected the way we live

-Their faith was affected because they thought they were familiar with Jesus

-Do you have a familiar faith?

-Do you welcome Jesus into your life on Sundays or in your daily devo time but don’t honor him with the rest?

-Do you think you know everything there is to know about Jesus and that keeps you from giving him the honor he deserves?

That’s not the end of the verse, and that’s not the only reason the Galileans welcomed Jesus: “the Galileans welcomed him, for they had been in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration and had seen everything he did there.”

-Here we see the other reason the Galileans welcomed him, and it’s for what he did, not for who he was

The second kind of faith is **Fake Faith**

-Illustration/Connection: Have you ever thought you liked someone until you REALLY got to know them?

-athlete

-celebrity

-crush

(Share personal story/experience)

In other words you liked the person for what they do but you don't like who they really are:

-So often we have this same approach with Jesus:

-I like what Jesus does

-I like when Jesus/God moves in my life

-I like the way Jesus makes me feel sometimes

-I DON'T really like what Jesus always said

-I DON'T really like how Jesus calls me to live different

-I DON'T really like how Jesus raises the standard

-So often we can just like Jesus for what he does and fail to truly get to know him or truly appreciate who he IS!

-We "welcome" Jesus, but we don't honor him.

-This was exactly the approach the Galileans had and we see this when Jesus later encounters a man in Cana:

-John 4:46-48 "As he traveled through Galilee, he came to Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose son was very sick. **47** When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son, who was about to die.

48 Jesus asked, "Will you never believe in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?"

Per usual this sounds a little harsh and intense on Jesus' part, but again we need to understand the context:

-Jesus had gone through his hometown and a place many had seen him do miracles

-the miracles were the basis of their faith: maybe they remembered when Jesus turned the merchant's tables in the outer courts of the temple (John 2:13-27), or Jesus also predicted His own resurrection (John 2:18-22) and performed many other signs when in Jerusalem (John 2:23-25).

-the lie they had believed was that Jesus' power was only seen through his works!

-They didn't have faith in Jesus for who he was, but for what he did

-They had fake faith!

-This isn't bad, but it's also not blessed

-John 20:29-Then Jesus told him (Thomas), "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

-Do you have a "fake faith"?

-Do you only believe when you see and only seek God when you need a miracle?

-Do you only welcome God because of what he's done or do you honor him because of who he is?

-What I love is this isn't the end of the story:

-v.49-50: The official pleaded, "Lord, please come now before my little boy dies."
50 Then Jesus told him, "Go back home. Your son will live!" And **the man believed what Jesus said and started home.**

Here the official, this man, shows us the last and final type of faith: **FULL FAITH**

The man hadn't seen if his son was healed before he believed. He didn't wait for Jesus to perform a sign or a miracle in that moment, he believed and had FULL FAITH in what Jesus said, not just what Jesus did.

-He trusted that Jesus' word was true and acted on it

-he trusted Jesus' word and his faith wasn't tied to works or to familiarity

-unlike the Galileans, the TRUTH this man believed was that **Jesus' words were just as powerful as his works**

-the man simply believed what Jesus said

-Do we believe what Jesus says?

-Do we take Jesus at his word and know that he is faithful and trustworthy?

-Do we realize there is JUST AS MUCH power in Jesus' words as his works?

Because he believed what Jesus said, He not only believed but followed through

-Full faith has a follow through

-what I love and the reminder we all need is that the official moved as a result of his faith

-he didn't continue to seek a miracle or sign in that moment to trust that his son would be healed, but he "believed what Jesus said"

-He had trust and faith in what Jesus said so he began to head home to see his son

-When he went home and found out his son was healed, he was amazed and his whole family and friends believed in Jesus

-Do you need to move in FULL faith?

-How can you follow through with your faith?

Altar/Closing

- First we need to ask ourselves: what kind of faith do I have?
 - Familiar- Jesus is welcome, but I don't truly honor him as he deserves
 - Fake- based on what Jesus can do for me in my life
 - Full- Jesus is worth honoring and following because of who he is, and his word is just as powerful as his works

If we want to have full faith, if we want to have a faith that follows through, we have to know and trust Jesus' word

-We have access to this here and now

-Challenge/Takeaway: There is power in the words of Jesus, which we have access to each and every day

-How can I read and realize the power of Jesus' words this week?

-Reading Scripture, journaling, prayer and talking w/ others