



I Believe in Jesus! Really?

Series: Gospel of John, #19

John 8:31-59

Pastor Lyle Wahl

July 30, 2023

Theme: **Really believing in Jesus is demonstrated in your life.**

Believing, but not really believing.

1. Demonstrated by relying on religion and family history.
(see 7:2 for setting; 8:33, 39, 53)
2. Demonstrated by still being slaves to sin. (8:31-34, 40, 44)
3. Demonstrated by rejecting some of the truth Jesus gave them.
(8:37, 43, 45-47, 58-59)
4. Demonstrated by ultimately rejecting Jesus. (8:37, 40, 48, 52, 58-59)

Believing, really believing.

1. Demonstrated by knowing and continuing in Jesus' word. (8:31, 32, 51, 58)
2. Demonstrated by loving Jesus. (8:42)
3. Demonstrated by being free from slavery to sin. (8:32, 36, 34-37)
4. Demonstrated by doing the works of God. (8:39)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read John 8:31-59. Think about the question, “What does it mean to really believe in Jesus?” Have you had that question about yourself? About others? How have you handled it, answered it?

Tuesday. Really believing in Jesus is demonstrated in your life. Look at the four examples of *believing, but not really believing* listed in the outline. Valuing religious tradition and family history is not the same as relying on it for God’s acceptance. Struggling with some sin is not the same as still being a slave to sin. Having questions about some of the Bible’s truths is not the same as rejecting those truths. Having said that, the four examples are marks of believing, but not really believing in Jesus. Do you really believe in Him? Do you know people who say they believe but demonstrate these four points?

Wednesday. Really believing in Jesus is demonstrated by knowing and continuing in Jesus words (check the references in the outline and any notes you made on Sunday on this). That devotion to God’s Word is joined by loving Jesus (see 8:42), not in a sentimental way but for all of who He is. Both believers and nonbelievers can see this evidence. How brightly does it shine from you? How clearly can others see it?

Thursday. Really believing in Jesus is demonstrated by being free from slavery to sin (8:32, 36, 34-37). Real believers do sin (see 1 John 1:8-10), but are not slaves to it. What’s the difference? Really believing in Jesus is also demonstrated by doing the works of God (see verse 39 and Ephesians 2:10). What is the evidence of this in your life?

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at chapter 9 which gives us a case study on the response to God’s light. Read and think through the chapter in preparation for our time together.