

## The *HUGE* Difference Between Belief & Faith

### How the crowd ruined homecoming:

Mark 6:1-6

The crowd at home knew Jesus':

- ✓ **Abilities**
- ✓ **Wisdom**
- ✓ **Miracles**
- ✓ **Story**

The crowd at home was **offended** by what Jesus **demanded**.

### Separating faith and belief:

Matthew 7:13-29, James 2:14-26, Hebrews 11:6, Romans 10:17, Romans 10:9-11

*Surrender:* Matthew 16:24-26, 26:36-46, Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 2:20, Romans 7-8

- ▶ There is a huge difference between a Christ **follower** and a Christ **believer**.
- ▶ Belief is what we **know**, faith is how we **live**.
- ▶ It is impossible to be a **Christian** without experiencing a life **change**.
- ▶ Lordship is a complete surrender of **our will** to **God's will**.

# Life Group Study Questions

For the week of April 28, 2019

## MY STORY

- 1 We saw this weekend the people in Jesus' hometown used various words to describe him. Write down as many words as you can think of that you would have used and/or still use, to describe Jesus (including before you became a Christian).
- 2 Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## DIGGING DEEPER

As you know, we have been hitting the topic of real faith pretty hard over the last two weeks in both our weekend teaching and our Life Group Study Questions. This week, we bring it all home by looking at one of Jesus' most extensive teachings in Matthew 7:13-27 on the type of faith that makes us children of God.

Before we jump into the questions, take a couple of minutes and read this entire passage to soak in what Jesus is trying to tell the crowd about faith.

- Circle / **highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
- Underline the verse(s) you see as most important for you to remember.

### Matthew 7:13-27

<sup>13</sup> "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

<sup>15</sup> "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

<sup>24</sup> "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

### Questions about the passage:

- 1 We heard this weekend that as followers of Jesus we will experience life change when we put our faith in Jesus by denying our will and realigning it with God's. Verses 15-20 tell us we'll know our faith by our good fruit. As a follower of Jesus, what are some examples of how God has grown and/or changed you? (Galatians 5:19-23 & Romans 12:9-21 give some examples of how the Spirit may have worked, or is working in your life).
- 2 The Bible clearly teaches that one day we will have a divine appointment before the Almighty God. Verses 21-23 are some of the strongest statements ever made by Jesus about the day we meet him. For that reason, let's spend some time wrestling with the claims of the crowd, and the response Jesus gives us that defines who gets into heaven and who doesn't.

In your own words, what is the crowd basing their relationship with Christ on?

How would you tell someone else about the way Jesus defines real faith and Christianity in verse 21?

- 3 Jesus gives us one last story to sum up all that we have been learning over the last few weeks about faith in verses 24-27. Since this is so important to our own understanding of real faith, what three to five bullet points would you use if you had to teach this to your Life Group as a Bible study?

## TAKING IT HOME

- 1 Can you think of any ways in which the last few weeks have stretched, added to or redefined your personal understanding of faith?
- 2 As you look at your own life, are there any areas where you've allowed tradition or man-made rules to give you a false sense of surrender?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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### COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

Community Service is dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God's love in tangible ways through service to the community. There are many options for you to serve. For ideas, check out [NorthCoastCommunityService.org](http://NorthCoastCommunityService.org)