

Believe

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' initial invitation to his disciples was a simple one: Follow me. He invited them to watch and listen to his interactions with his heavenly Father and with others. In time, however, those who followed Jesus began to discover God's character through Jesus Christ. And in that discovery they found themselves drawn to take a second simple step: Believe.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think about all the advertisements you get for "free offers". Have you ever actually received anything for "free"? What hidden catches/costs have accompanied the free offers you've pursued?
2. Read Romans 3:21-26. In your words, define "righteousness" (v.22)? What comes to mind when you think about the word "glory" (v.23)?
3. Do you agree that nobody is perfect? How does that shape your idea of what it means to have fallen short of God's standard?
4. What attempts have you made in your life to reach God's standard of living? Have those attempts assured you of God's recognition or are you still trying to earn God's favor?
5. What is unique about God's invitation to be in relationship with Him that is different from other types of invitations that we receive?
6. Attaining a right standing with God is available from God through Christ to all who believe in Jesus – the person. Do you believe who Jesus says he is and what he has done for you?

THINK ABOUT IT

When this message captivates the human heart it impacts our behavior. Forgiven people find it easier to forgive. Loved people find it easier to love. Accepted people find it easier to accept. Sinners who've been forgiven of sin find it easier to abandon their sin.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Have you ever said yes to God and accepted his gift of a right standing with him? Consider praying a prayer that transfers your trust out of your hands and places it into Christ's hands. And if you've already done so, is there anyone in your life with whom you can share this message?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Romans 3:22 -24

There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.