

Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John
August 9th, 2020
Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

Taking Jesus at His Word (John 4:43-54)

1. Shaky Faith – trusting in what I see (vv. 43-45)

2. Solid Faith – trusting in what Jesus says (vv. 46-54)

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Who is the most trustworthy person you know? Why would you say that?

Going Deeper

3. In verse 44, Jesus says, *"a prophet has no honor in his own hometown."* But in verse 45, John says, *"So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him...."*? If Jesus is

without honor in Galilee, why would the Galileans welcome him? Why are these people attracted to Jesus (compare verse 45 with John 2:23-25)? How is their reception of Jesus actually a form of rejection? How can people today treat Jesus the same way that the Galileans did?

4. Compare and contrast the royal official (vv. 46-54) with the people of Galilee (vv. 44-45)? How is his belief fundamentally different from the people of his region?
5. People say that *"seeing is believing."* But in Scripture, it's often the opposite; *"believing is seeing."* People take God at his word, and then see his word come to pass. How do we see that in this passage? When have you found this to be true in your own life (think of a time you took God at his word, and then saw his word prove true)? Why is Jesus' word a more solid foundation for faith than what we see/experience?

Application

6. Jeff said the danger of basing faith in sight is that we make God conform to our expectations (i.e. "I must see God work in this particular way or I won't believe in him"). Think of a time you held out on God, because you felt like he was holding out on you.
7. As we read Scripture, a helpful question to ask is, *"if I believed what God was saying in this passage, how would my life look different?"* Use that question as you read the Bible this week. Share your insights with your group.
8. What's one way you can apply this passage this week?