

Persuasion, No Penance, Plus the Prize

Part 1: Simply Believing

The Pastor, the Professor, and Diane

At Crosspoint Community Church (January 10, 2017)

Introduction

The purpose statement (John 20:31):

But these [eight signs] are written

so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,

and that by believing you may have life in His name.

Eight signs:

A. _____ (2:1-12)

B. _____ (4:46-54)

C. _____ (5:1-15)

D. _____ (6:1-14)

E. _____ (6:15-21)

F. _____ (9:1-12)

G. _____ (11:1-44)

H. _____ (19-20)

Jesus' message of life as His promise: 1 John 2:25

Emphasis upon believing His promise of life:

879 verses; 100 uses of the verb for believe in John's Gospel (in the *Majority Text*)

For God loved the world so [so = in this way]: that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whoever **believes** in Him should not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16)

Amen, amen, I tell you, whoever hears My word and **believes** the One who sent Me has eternal life, and will not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life (John 5:24)

Amen, amen, I tell you, whoever **believes** in Me has eternal life. I am the Bread of Life. (John 6:47-48)

I am the Resurrection
He who **believes** in Me, even if he dies, will live.

and the Life.
And everyone who lives and **believes** in Me will never die.

Do you **believe** [all of] this?

Yes, Lord, I have [already] **believed** that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world. (John 11:25-27)

But these [eight signs] are written

so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that by believing [this] you may have life in His name. (John 20:31)

Drinking living water is a metaphor for believing

Jesus sat by the well as His disciples went to town for food (4:1-6, 8)

A Samaritan woman came to draw water; Jesus requested a drink of water (4:7)

The woman asked how Jesus dared ask for water from her (4:9)

Jesus told her that (if she had known God's gift and who He is) she would have asked for and received living water from Him (4:10)

A. Knowing God's gift: _____

B. Knowing who Jesus is: _____

What is living water?

1. Some say that it is _____ (based on John 7:39), but 7:39 disproves that view. How so? Jesus says in John 4:10 that she could have already had living water, but 7:39 explains that the giving of the _____ would be yet future (not at the time of John 4:10).

2. Others say that it is _____. John 4:14 disagrees.

3. Living water is the _____.

Jesus uses the word *asked*, rather than *believed*, in 4:10.

Jesus speaks of drinking from the water He will give.

She scoffed at that He had something to offer and that He was significant (4:11-12)

Jesus contrasted non-satisfying water with His thirst-quenching water (4:13-14)

She wanted water that would permanently satisfy (4:15)

When Jesus said to call her husband, she said that she did not have one (4:16-17a)

When Jesus revealed what she had not said, she called Him a prophet and asked a what only a prophet could answer (4:17b-20)

Looking more deeply at why Jesus raised the issue of the six men in her life. Most people only see this at a surface-level, missing John's emphasis.

Jesus' answer prompted her to wonder if He were more than a prophet: the Messiah, who would explain everything (4:21-25)

She has met the two conditions of John 4:10:

She has given indication of understanding God's gift: _____

She has recognized who Jesus is: _____

Therefore, Jesus promised in 4:10 that He would give her living water. We have learned that living water should be understood as:

Ma'am, believe Me that...

The word *believe* takes two kinds of objects: (cf. John 14:11a)

1. The person who communicates something, and
2. The content that is communicated.

Jesus revealed His identity to her. (4:26)

When the disciples arrived, she left her water jar behind and went into town (4:27-28)

The disciples went into town to buy food. What did they bring to Jesus?

The woman came to the well to get water. What did she leave behind?

The woman went into the town? What did she bring to Jesus?

Jesus told the disciples that the fields were white unto harvest (4:35). What did the disciples forget to bring to Jesus as they focused on food?

She tantalized town folk with evidence that Jesus is Messiah; they came (4:29-30)

Many believed in Him because of her words (4:39)

Others told her that Jesus' words expanded what they now believed about Jesus (4:40)

CONCLUSION

A project for next time (January 24)

These 102 references from the *Living Water* contain the letters *believ_* (believe, believes, believed, believing, disbelieving, unbelieving). 99 of those have a form of the verb *pisteuō* (believe). The three underlined references do not use *pisteuō*. John 2:24 translates it as trust, not *believe*.

1:7, 12, 50; 2:11, 22, 23, 24; 3:12ab, 15, 16, 18abc, 36ab; 4:21, 39, 41, 42, 48, 50, 53; 5:24, 38, 44, 46ab, 47ab; 6:29, 30, 35, 36, 40, 47, 64ab, 69; 7:5, 31, 38, 39, 48; 8:24, 30, 31, 45, 46; 9:18, 35, 36, 38; 10:25, 26, 37, 38abc, 42; 11:15, 25, 26ab, 27, 40, 42, 45, 48; 12:11, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 44ab, 46, 47; 13:19; 14:1ab, 10, 11ab, 12, 29; 16:9, 27, 30, 31; 17:8, 20, 21; 19:35; 20:8, 25, 27ab, 29ab, 31ab.