

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Why I Believe in Jesus Christ

SERMON REFERENCE: John 6:66-69

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1869

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) In this passage in the Gospel of John, the Lord Jesus had just fed the five thousand with a few fishes and loaves.
 - i) Many people followed Jesus because of the miracles He performed.
- b) As the multitudes were following Jesus, He turned to them and spoke a challenging message about eating His flesh and drinking His blood; that is, to partake in Him.
 - i) This message was so different and radical that the people began to leave.
 - (1) These people were miracle-mongers; they liked the loaves and the fishes but not the deeper message that was behind the miracle.
- c) Jesus then turned to His disciples and asked them if they were going to leave Him, too.
 - i) Peter asked a penetrating question, "To whom shall we go?"
 - (1) John 6:68
- d) Peter's question is the same question that is before us today.
 - i) If not Jesus, then what? If not Jesus, then who?
 - ii) If Jesus isn't the answer and we turn from Him, then where are we going to go?
 - (1) Will we turn to atheism?
 - (a) Will we believe that in the beginning, the heavens and the Earth created themselves and then created man?
 - (i) Atheism does not make sense and is not a sign of intelligence.
 - (ii) The intelligencia of the ages have believed in God.
 - 1. Socrates
 - 2. Galileo
 - 3. Newton
 - 4. Pasteur
 - 5. Einstein
 - 6. Wernher von Braun
 - (2) Will we turn to philosophy?
 - (a) Philosophy is a system that tells us what we already know in words we cannot understand.
 - (b) Philosophy did not satisfy the hearts of the great philosophers, including the following:
 - (i) Schopenhauer
 - (ii) Aldous Huxley
 - (iii) H.G. Wells
 - (3) Will we turn to materialism?
 - (a) Materialism will never satisfy the deepest longing of our hearts.
 - (i) God made us for Himself.
 - (4) Will we turn to false religions?
 - (a) Only Jesus Christ has the words of eternal life.
 - (i) John 6:68
 - 1. Confucius' grave is occupied.

2. Buddha's grave is occupied.
 3. Mohammed's grave is occupied.
 4. Jesus' grave is empty.
- (b) You can take Confucius out of Confucianism and still have Confucianism.
 - (c) You can take Buddha out of Buddhism and still have Buddhism.
 - (d) You can take Mohammed out of Islam and still basically have Islam.
 - (e) You cannot take Jesus out of Christianity and still have Christianity.
 - (i) Christianity is not a creed, a code, a cause or a church; it is Christ.
 - (ii) Christianity is a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - e) Only Jesus Christ has the answer to the things that really matter.
 - i) Only Jesus can meet the deepest hunger of the human heart.
 - ii) Only Jesus is the answer to our sin.
 - iii) Only Jesus gives meaning to life and death.
 - (1) Only Jesus gives hope that is steadfast and sure.
 - (2) Only Jesus has the answers to life and death.
 - f) Why do we believe in Jesus?
 - i) The message today will present four reasons why we can know and be sure that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
 - (a) John 6:69

2) THE HISTORICAL REASON

- a) Jesus Christ is a fact of history.
 - i) Even those who are not Christians admit that Jesus was here upon this Earth.
 - ii) Regardless of what they believe about Him, secular historians admit the fact of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) H.G. Wells, in his *Outline of History*, listed Jesus as number one on his list of the ten greatest men of history.
 - (2) Sir J.G. Frazer claimed the historical reality of Jesus of Nazareth and His crucifixion.
- b) His birth and life splits history.
 - i) Each time we write today's date, we are giving testimony to the fact that Jesus was here.
- c) There is no way to explain the existence of the Christian church apart from the fact that Jesus Christ was here.
 - i) The early church preached, not only that Jesus was here, but that He walked out of the grave.
 - (1) The early church grew out of the life and times of Jesus Christ.
 - (2) They were eyewitnesses and believed in His resurrection.
 - (a) Some may try to say that members of the early church were hallucinating when they saw the resurrected Jesus, but Jesus appeared to more than 500 at one time.

- (b) Some may say that Jesus was a ghost; but He ate with them, and they touched Him.
- (c) Some may say that they just made the story up; but members of the early church died for their faith.
 - (i) Men may live for a lie, but few die for a lie.
 - (ii) These early Christians paid with their lives for their faith.
- d) There is more proof that Jesus Christ rose from the dead than that Julius Caesar lived.
 - i) Romans 1:4
 - ii) Acts 1:3
 - iii) John 6:38

3) SCRIPTURAL REASONS (JOHN 6:44-45)

- a) The Bible is the Word of God.
 - i) How do we know that the Bible is the true, Word of God?
 - (1) Fulfilled prophecy
 - (2) The unity of the Bible
 - (a) The Bible was written over 1500 years by at least forty different authors in three different languages on different subjects.
 - (b) Sixty-six books make one book.
 - (3) The longevity of the Bible
 - (a) The Bible has lasted through the centuries.
 - (i) Men have even made laws against owning a Bible.
 - (4) The accuracy of the Bible
 - (a) The Bible is scientifically and historically accurate.
 - (5) The power of the Bible
 - (a) John 6:63
 - (b) Reading God's Word can transform your life.
- b) The central theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ.
 - i) Jesus is the hero of the Bible; the Bible is the story of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Acts 10:43
 - (2) John 6:45
 - ii) The Scriptures tell us of His miraculous birth and miraculous life.
 - (1) Jesus Christ is absolutely unique as He is presented in the Bible.
 - (a) The Bible describes Jesus as a sinless man who never modified or withdrew any statement He ever made.
 - (b) Jesus never apologized for anything He did, though He was often misunderstood.
 - (c) Jesus never asked advice from anyone, even though He walked among the Pharisees, scribes and doctors of the law.
 - (d) Jesus never tried to justify His actions when many misunderstood what He did.
 - (e) Jesus never confessed sin, not one time.

- (2) Every part of Jesus' life was completely and totally balanced in perfect symmetry.
 - iii) The Bible tells about His sacrificial death.
 - (1) Jesus' death was unique, not because He died, but because He chose to die.
 - (a) Even a suicide does not choose to die; he only chooses to die early.
 - (b) Everyone is going to die except Jesus.
 - (i) There was no sin in Him; there was no reason for Jesus to die.
 - (ii) John 10:18
 - (c) Jesus was the only man who chose to die.
 - (2) Jesus is the only one who has been raised from the dead.
 - (a) Lazarus was not resurrected; he was resuscitated to die again.
 - (b) Jesus was resurrected, and He lives in a glorified body.
 - (i) John 6:54
 - c) The Bible is a miracle book that has stood the test of the ages, and it presents Jesus as absolutely and totally unique.
- 4) SPIRITUAL REASONS (JOHN 6:63)
- a) We will never with our human minds comprehend who Jesus Christ is; it is the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, who helps us to understand.
 - i) John 15:26
 - b) 1 John 5:6-8
 - i) It is the Holy Spirit of God who convicts us and convinces us as to whom Jesus Christ is.
 - c) 1 John 5:9
 - i) God the Holy Spirit will testify in our hearts.
 - ii) We trust people every day, but the witness of God is greater.
 - iii) The word "if" in this passage may be translated "since."
 - iv) If you truly want to know who Jesus Christ is, then ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand.
 - (1) If you want to believe, God will help you to understand and to believe.
 - d) 1 John 5:10
 - i) 1 John 5:9 speaks of His witness to us; verse 10 speaks of His witness on the inside.
 - (1) Once we receive Jesus Christ into our hearts, we then have His witness within ourselves.
 - ii) A Christian with the witness in his heart is never at the mercy of someone with an argument in his mouth.
 - iii) Psalm 34:8
- 5) PERSONAL REASONS (JOHN 6:68-69)
- a) Peter stated in this passage that he knew personally that Jesus is the Son of God.

- b) Not only does history, the Bible and the Holy Spirit tell us that Jesus is the Son of God, but we can also testify through personal experience that He is the Son of God.
- c) As Christians, Jesus is very real to us.
 - i) We can see how He changes lives.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) Jesus alone is the answer to your heart's need.
 - i) There is nowhere else to go except to Jesus.
 - (1) No one else has the answer to your sin.
 - (2) No one else can fill the longing in your heart.
 - (3) No one else can give you peace that passes understanding.
 - (4) No one else has the words of eternal life.
 - (5) No one else walked out of that grave, but Jesus did.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today and ask Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16