

# BELIEF

The topic for the sermon is belief. Tel will be using John 1-11 for his texts, noting where the works and words of Jesus invite belief. This is all predicated on John's comments in 20:30-31.

Consider these dialogues and stories, always with the question – what does belief look like, or what are some dynamics of belief?

**I** With "belief" in mind, ask the basic who, what, where, when, why and how of these stories:

Water into wine in chapter 2

Jesus' chat with Nicodemus in chapter 3

Jesus with the woman at the well, and towns people in Chapter 4.

How do you see belief being challenged or drawn out of the characters in each vignette?

**II** In chapter 5:1-18 Jesus heals a lame man on the Sabbath. The Jews were persecuting Jesus because He broke their Sabbath rule and said God was His Father, making Himself equal to God.

In 5:19-47 Jesus has an extensive dialogue with these Jews and they are treated to Jesus' comments on varied topics concerning Himself (and them).

Consider 5:38-47.

What problems does Jesus address in His words to these Jews?

What claims does Jesus make both about Himself and them?

What dynamics regarding our topic of belief, do you see in operation in verse 44?

If you were one of these Jews listening, what difficulties would you have to face as you heard Jesus say the words of 5:45-47?

What may be some things we are counting on among our beliefs that may actually work against us.