

They Believed, But...

Delivered: April 14, 2024

Scriptures: John 2.23-3.8

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### **They Believed, but...**

**John 2.23-25** - Many believed in Him, but...

23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed (*pisteuo*) in His name as they observed His signs which He was doing.

24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting (*pisteuo*) Himself to them, because He knew all people (*pas* - all, the whole),

25 and because He did not need anyone to testify about mankind, for He Himself knew what was in mankind.

Because of the miracles, many people professed to believe in Him but there was something incomplete about their faith... Jesus did not accept their profession of faith. No matter what the people themselves said, He did not accept their testimony.

Why? Because He knew what was in each person's heart and mind (v24). [Warren Wiersbe](#) calls these people "unsaved believers."

### **Believe and Follow**

Listen to what Jesus says in **John 8.30-31**,

30 ...many came to believe in Him.

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples"

When faith gives birth to following Him, then you know you are a disciple of Jesus.

We all know **John 3.16**, but what He does for the world will never save you until what He's done for the world becomes what He's done for you.

### The necessity of grace and truth

John writes in [John 1.17](#) that the law was given through Moses, but Jesus came "demonstrating grace and truth."

Grace is God loving the world so much that He sent His Son.

Truth is the Son saying if you don't take up your cross and follow Me you cannot be My disciple ([Luke 14:27](#)).

Grace is Jesus feeding the 5,000.

Truth is Jesus telling them if they don't eat His flesh and drink His blood they have no life in them.

Grace is Jesus healing the leper.

Truth is telling him to sin no more.

Grace is the Holy Spirit opening your eyes to see the beauty of the Gospel in the face of Jesus.

Truth is Jesus telling you to repent and follow Him.

Grace is not the barrier to someone becoming a follower of Jesus...truth is.

Grace attracts the masses, truth sifts them and becomes the filter that we all pass through.

When truth is spoken, this is where the numbers start falling off.

Follow the trajectory of Jesus' ministry and you see it go from mass acceptance and curiosity to rejection and betrayal. Why? Because in the beginning it was easy for people to follow the Man who was multiplying bread and healing all of their sick. That was God's grace poured out.

But then when that same Man began speaking truth that penetrated hearts, truth exposed what really was inside of the crowds. **Truth forced people to make a decision**; am I willing to follow this Man or not?

The example of [John 6](#)

The majority in Jesus' day who saw the miracles, heard the stories, even believed in Him, ultimately decided this Man could not be trusted. Anyone who wants His works but not His word can never receive His life.