

## The Road of Faith: Believe or Not Believe

Sometimes you can be in a position where you truly want to believe...until you get around certain people who try to explain away what God has done, and then you start to doubt.

**Mark 5:35-37** – “While he was still speaking to her, messengers arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. They told him, ‘Your daughter is dead. There’s no use troubling the Teacher now.’ But Jesus overheard them and said to Jairus, ‘**Don’t be afraid. Just have faith.**’ Then Jesus stopped the crowd and wouldn’t let anyone go with him except Peter, James, and John (the brother of James).”

Jairus was close enough to Jesus when he received word of his daughter’s death that Jesus was able to hear him and speak to him.

When Jesus went forward, he stopped the crowd from following and only brought three of the disciples with him – It’s important to keep your inner circle small. If your goal is to be popular, you’re not going to be on the road of faith.

When Jesus entered the house and said the girl was only sleeping, the people laughed at him, and they got kicked out of the house – The road of faith is not for nonbelievers. People may laugh at you, but you cannot let them stand in your way. Don’t judge them or hate them; simply leave them where they are.

**Romans 1:21-23** – “Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshipping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshipped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.”

Sometimes you may be happy and praise God when something good happens in your life, but when you surround yourself with certain people, you start to doubt. You then attribute this goodness to chance or other worldly reasons rather than giving God the thanks he deserves. We take so many things for granted.

Either you believe and worship the Lord as God, or you do not believe and become dark and confused.

**Numbers 14:22-24** – “Not one of these people will ever enter that land. They have all seen my glorious presence and the miraculous signs I performed both in Egypt and in the wilderness, but again and again they have tested me by refusing to listen to my voice. They will never even see the land I swore to give their ancestors. None of those who have treated me with contempt will ever see it. But my servant Caleb has a different attitude than the others have. He has remained loyal to me, so I will bring him into the land he explored. His descendants will possess their full share of that land.”

Twelve spies saw the Promise Land. Ten of them saw this land and began to doubt because they were intimidated by the people who lived there. Only Joshua and Caleb believed that God would deliver the land to the people of Israel.

Whenever you start to doubt whether something is possible, all you need is one reason to step forward in faith: Jesus Christ.

When you get on the road of faith and walk in the hope you have in Jesus Christ, your journey will be long and fruitful. But your journey isn't for everyone but you and your small inner circle—and your inner circle must consist of believers like yourself.

**Matthew 9:12-13** – “When Jesus heard this, he said, ‘Healthy people don't need a doctor; sick people do.’ Then he added, ‘Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: “I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.” For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.’”

The problem with nonbelievers is that they think they understand the issues at hand. They believe they accomplish things by their own strength. The Word of God is not for people who are hardened against God, so it doesn't make any sense to them.

We have to know that we cannot succeed on our own. We are inadequate in our own strength.

We have a hundred reasons to not do what God has called us to do, but one reason to do it: because he has called us to it. If God chose you, it doesn't mean that you're dumb or weak; it means that you are inadequate enough that God can use you to show his perfection through you.

You simply need to give God permission to use you. But in order to do this, you have to have a relationship with him. This means you have to spend meaningful time with him, get to know him, and understand what he sees in you.