



That You May Believe: The Hour Has Come

John Bodily – 08 March 2026 (watch talk [here](#))

Continuing our sermon series 'That you May Believe', in this talk John focuses on what it means to believe. The western enlightenment view reduces belief to a logical, rational response to factual evidence or experience. However, John explained that the Greek words for believe and faith used in the bible share a common root helping us to understand the biblical concept of belief as a more complex, holistic idea influenced by both evidence *and* our heart's response to it.

Throughout the book of John, we see different reactions to the miracles and words of Jesus culminating in the responses of various groups to his biggest and most provocative miracle up to that point, the raising of Lazarus. While some want to crown Jesus (John 12:12-13), some want to kill him (John 11:49-50). We see how witnessing the same words and works of Jesus provokes different beliefs. In his gospel, John is writing with the explicit purpose of convincing us that we should put our belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through that belief we may have life in his name (John 20:31).

Key verses:

John 20:31	John 12:37	John 1:12
John 11:47-50	John 12:42-43	

Reflect and discuss

1. Consider your own experiences of witnessing the words and works of Jesus provoking different responses or beliefs about him. Share your observations.
2. Reflect on these beliefs about Jesus and consider John's question: **What do you believe?**
 - Jesus is the Messiah
 - Jesus is the saviour of the world
 - Jesus is the divine Son of God
 - Jesus has authority over sin and death
 - Jesus is the way to life, both now and in eternity

How do these beliefs about Jesus influence how you think and act in everyday life? What are some of the challenges or barriers to fully believing in and/or living out these beliefs?

Share & Pray

John highlighted that what we believe about Jesus requires a response from us, outlined in John 12:25-26. Spend some time in smaller groups sharing your responses to these verses and praying for one another.

Activate

What is one way you can put your beliefs, by faith, into practise this week?
Check back in with one another next time about how this is going.