

Four Portraits, One *Savior*



That you may
have *life*

Free by the Truth We Follow

John 8:28-32

1. *The Holy Spirit will often lead both believers and nonbelievers to a “crisis of belief.” Do we trust God or stay where we are?*

A. *Jn 8:30 “Many came to **believe** in Him.” 6x in Jn*

- *V33? “We are **Abraham’s offspring**, ...”*
- *V59? “They **picked up stones** to throw at him...”*

B. *How does Jn 8:24 collide with modern day beliefs about Jesus?*

- *I believe he existed.*
- *He was a good teacher.*
- *I believe in his values, not in going to church.*
- *I grew up Christian – but don’t see the value in it anymore.*

C. *It is by **God’s grace** that we are led to a crisis of belief.*



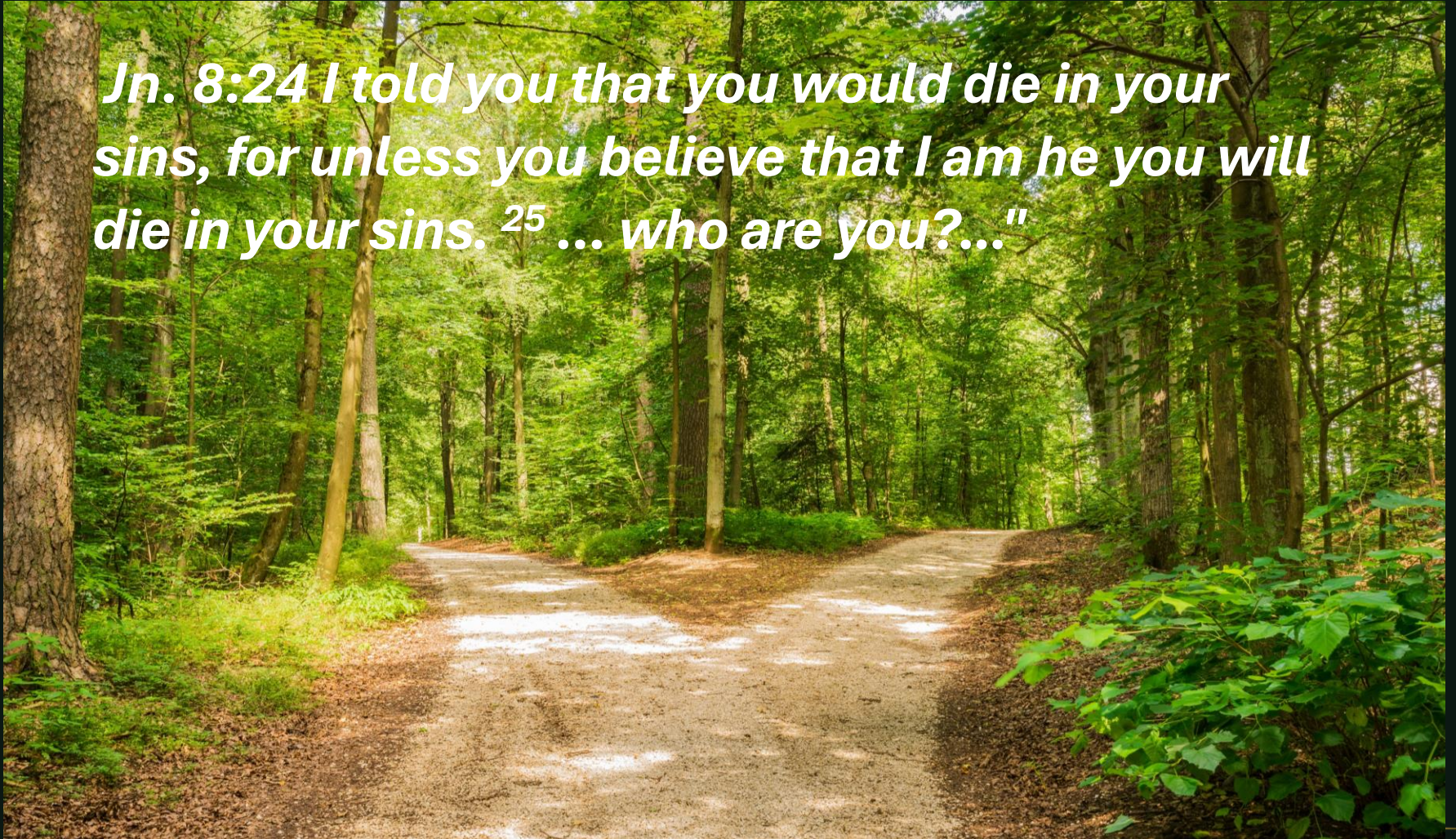
Post-resurrection examples of people's crisis' of belief – each based upon a false belief about Jesus.

- *Jn. 20:27-29 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and **see My hands**; and reach here your hand and **put it into My side**; and **do not be unbelieving, but believing.**"²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, "**My Lord and my God!**"²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? **Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.**"*
- *Acts 2:38-39 And Peter said to them, "**Repent and be baptized** every one of you in the **name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins, and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**"³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."*



Crisis of belief – “the place where God’s revelation collides with existing assumptions.”

Jn. 8:24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins. ²⁵ ... who are you?..."



2. *Is the Holy Spirit leading us, individually and corporately, to a crisis of belief about discipleship?*

A. *Disciple:*

- A “**learner.**”
- Truth is **framed** by the teacher.
- Disciple **learns** and **implements** the teachings of teacher.

B. *What assumptions form your definition of discipleship?*

C. *Jn. 8:31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had **believed Him**, “If you **abide** in My word, **then** you are **truly disciples of Mine**;*

- To “those who had **believed Him**”:
 1. *If you do this: “**abide in my word**”*
 2. *Then, you are: “**truly disciples**” of mine.*



3. *“To be a disciple” is not a decision we make. **Abiding is a decision we make.** Discipleship is the outcome of having decided to abide.*
- A. *The promise of God is that abiding in the Word of God will **authenticate itself.** I place myself in His lens so that my false assumptions may be revealed.*
- *In 8:32 “and you will **know the truth,** and the truth will **set you free.**”*
- B. ***To abide is where I meet the Holy Spirit at my fork in the road!***
- *Free in Christ. John 8:31-32, Matt 6:22-23*
 - *Relationships. Jn 13:34-35; Eph 5*
 - *Sexuality. Gen 2:24, Matt 6:22-23*
 - *Communications. Eph 4:26; Col 4:6*
 - *Self-worth, personal identity. 2 Cor 5:17*
 - *Life struggles. Rom 5:3-5*
 - *Work, school. Col 3:23-24*



Call to Action

1. *Has the Holy Spirit revealed a **false assumption or belief** in an area in your life? What if, today, you chose to trust God in this area by adjusting to Him? Staying where you are keeps you enslaved. **Freedom is lining up with His truth.***
2. *As you are reading the Scriptures over the next month, pay attention to verses that “speak” to you. **Will you join me in memorizing a verse each week for the months of April and May?***
 - *Begin with John 8:31-32.*
 - *I will give you a new one each week, or you can choose your own verse.*



- *Who was “John”?*

- A. Apostle John –*

- *one of the 12 disciples of Jesus (not John the Baptist).*
- *Refers to himself as the “disciple whom Jesus loved”*

- B. Fisherman by trade –*

- *partner with his brother, James, his father, Zebedee, and Peter. (Mark 1:19-20),*

- C. Author of --*

- 1. “gospel” of John.*
- 2. 1, 2nd, 3rd John*
- 3. Revelation*

