

February 5, 2017
Why Believe?: Introduction
“Jesus: Friend Of Doubters”
Matthew 6:25-34

New (And Unique?) Sermon Series...

- The church: a community of faith in Jesus Christ
- Pastor’s role

But...not everyone believes

- Being “OK” (not “freaking out”) when people tell us they have questions or find it difficult to believe

A tone and atmosphere of trying to understand those who have questions and doubts

Different aspects of this sermon series....Messages, Q&A, “Testimonies,” songs about faith and searching, conversations, resources...

A “spectrum of faith” in the church

- o “I believe, help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24)

Feeling the cultural pull towards doubt and unbelief

- Youth and adults
- Adults: the lessening and loosening of faith

Matthew 6:24-34

- These are words of comfort and encouragement
- “*you of little faith*”

“The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” He replied, “**You of little faith, why are you so afraid?**” (Matthew 8:25ff)

“But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. **“You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”** And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.” (Matthew 14:30ff).

“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.** (Matthew 28:16-17)

Faith develops in community, we need a community for conversations, questions, response, prayers. **Stay close to Jesus**, “friend of doubters”

Q & A...

Various Resources

- One Minute Apologist: <http://www.oneminuteapologist.com/>
- Be Thinking: <http://www.bethinking.org/>
- Pastor Tim Keller, 2 books: The Reason For God, Making Sense of God
- William Lane Craig: www.reasonablefaith.org/
- Ravi Zacharias Ministries: <http://rzim.org/>
- CS Lewis, **Mere Christianity**