

## Unbelief is an Amazing Thing

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*“He was amazed at their lack of faith” (Mark 6:6).*

This verse reminds us that the Lord Jesus Christ was fully human. He was fully God and, at the same time, fully human. That is why He was amazed. As God, He knew all things, and nothing could surprise Him. But as a human being, He was just like us, and there were things that amazed Him. This is why, when He went to His home town and found that the people did not believe in Him, He was astonished.

In this sermon, I want to speak about unbelief. Unbelief is an amazing thing: even the Lord Jesus was amazed when He came across it. Also, unbelief is important: there is a lot of it in our world today. In this sermon, I want to do two things:

1. In the first place, I want to explain what unbelief is.
2. In the second place, I want to explain why unbelief is such an amazing thing.

### **I. What is unbelief?**

Unbelief is when a person refuses to believe something that God has said. It is when a person refuses to believe a warning that God has given or a promise that God has made. It is when he refuses to accept some advice that God has given him, or to believe some threat that God has made, or some message that God has sent to him. In short, unbelief is when a person refuses to accept the things that are written in the Bible, the word of God. It is when a person does not believe that the Bible is the word of God and that every word of it is true; it is when he believes that the Bible is not important or relevant to him, it is when he thinks that it has nothing of importance to say to him. This is unbelief.

Unbelief is one of the oldest sins in the Bible. Unbelief began when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, bringing sin into the world. God had told them that on the day that they would eat the fruit, they would die, but they did not

believe God. They did not think that He was serious when He said He would punish them for disobedience.

It was unbelief that caused the death of millions in the flood. Noah, who was a preacher of righteousness, told them for 120 years that the flood was coming and that they needed to get into the ark, but the people of the world refused to believe him. It was unbelief which caused the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. When Lot told his sons-in-law that the cities would be destroyed, they thought he was joking and refused to believe him (Gen. 19:14).

It was unbelief that kept the people of Israel wandering in the desert for 40 years. The Bible tells us, "They were not able to enter because of unbelief" (Heb. 3:19). It was unbelief that brought about the destruction of the Jewish nation some 50 years after Christ left the world. They refused to believe in Him and to receive Him as the Saviour sent from God. Instead, they crucified Him and killed Him. It was their unbelief that caused the destruction of Jerusalem.

Unbelief is the great reason why most people in the world today who call themselves Christians are not actually saved. The reason why millions today are not truly saved and are not on their way to heaven is because of their unbelief. "Whoever does not believe stands condemned already; Whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him; Whoever does not believe will be condemned; If you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins" (Jn. 3:18;36; Mark 16:16; Jn. 8:24).

Reader, whoever you are, remember this one great truth: it is not sin that sends a person to hell, it is unbelief: "Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men; The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin; Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Matt. 12:31; 1 Jn. 1:7; Isaiah 1:18).

God is willing to receive and forgive all who come to Him, but many refuse to put their faith in Christ, and so they put themselves beyond the mercies of God. I believe that if Judas Iscariot had repented and believed in Christ after he betrayed Him, he would have been forgiven and saved. The reason why people remain in their sins and go into hell for eternity is found

in these words of Christ, “You refuse to come to me to have life” (Jn. 5:40).

Unbelief is a very common spiritual disease today. Wherever we look in the world today, we find those who do not believe in the Bible. This spiritual disease is in every home and family, and there seems to be no way of keeping it out. It is found among the rich and the poor, in towns and cities, and in small villages. Wherever you go in this world, you will find someone who is not a believer. There are people who believe that because they are now educated and clever, they cannot believe the Bible: that the Bible is for the simple peasants.

With some people, their unbelief is in their heads. They refuse to accept that the Bible is the word of God because they cannot understand it or explain it. They cannot see how Jonah could have been in the belly of the fish for three days or how the Lord Jesus could heal the sick and raise the dead. So they say that it is a book full of interesting stories, but it is not true.

With some people, their unbelief is in their hearts. They know that the Bible is the word of God, but they love their sins and are determined not to give them up. They know that the Bible condemns their lifestyle, so they refuse to accept the Bible and its teachings.

With others, their unbelief lies in their will. They know that the Bible is the word of God, but they are too lazy to read, study, and obey it. They find the Christian life too much effort. The thought of fighting sin and the world and following after holiness demands a lot of effort from them, and they do not want to make the effort. So they remain in their unbelief.

Let us not be surprised when we meet with unbelief in the world. Let us not be shocked when people in our place of work or study, and people in our neighbourhood, simply do not believe the Bible and therefore live lives of sin. This is nothing new. The apostle Peter wrote, “You must understand that in the last days scoffers will come” (2 Pet. 3:3). Remember that many times a person may appear on the outside not to care at all what the Bible says, but deep in his heart, he may have a conscience about it.

## II. Why is unbelief so amazing?

There are several reasons why unbelief is such an amazing thing.

### 1. Unbelief is amazing because it is found here on earth only and nowhere else.

The angels in heaven and the fallen angels in hell, the saints in heaven awaiting the resurrection, and the lost sinners in hell awaiting the final judgement all have one thing in common: they all believe! In the parable of Lazarus and the rich man (Lk. 16:19-31), when the rich man went into hell, he wanted his five brothers who were unbelievers here on earth to see the dead rise and to believe. The Bible tells us that even the demons believe in God - and shudder (James 2:19). When Jesus was here on earth, the demons said to Him, "What do you want with us, Son of God?" (Matt. 8:29). It is only people who are still here on earth who do not believe.

### 2. Unbelief is amazing because it is such an arrogant thing.

The most clever man here on earth knows so little. The cleverest doctor, for example, really has very little idea how the human body was created and how it functions. He knows a few things here and there, but he does not even know how his own body functions! And yet millions here on earth do not believe the Bible. They do not know how the earth came to be here, but they reject the Bible's teaching on creation. They do not know what sin is and how sin can be removed from us, but they do not believe in Christ and His death. Unbelief is an arrogant thing.

### 3. Unbelief is amazing because it is so unfair.

When you talk to a person who does not believe the Bible, he will talk to you about the ark and the crossing of the Red Sea and Balaam's donkey and Jonah in the belly of the fish. He will ask you, "Surely you don't believe these things, do you?" But they choose to ignore those things which prove beyond question that the Bible really is the word of God.

They choose to ignore the Person of Christ and His life, works, and miracles, and how He proves the Bible to be true. They choose to ignore the fact that the Bible has had a remarkable effect upon whole nations and has turned the world upside down. They choose to ignore the fact that true Christianity has been here on earth for two thousand years, despite the fact that many have tried to fight it and get rid of it, and that Christians have had a huge influence on this world. These are facts that are

plain to them, but they choose to ignore them.

**4. Unbelief is amazing because it is so obvious that it brings no eternal comfort.** Many people have friends and relatives who have died unbelievers, and they know that to live a life of unbelief brings no comfort when a person dies. They have seen their friend or relative die without any joy or hope or comfort; they have seen them die a terrible death. They know that unbelief brings no eternal comfort. And yet these people, even after understanding that unbelief brings no joy or hope on the deathbed, continue in their unbelief.

They do not seek God after the death of their friend or relative; they continue in their unbelief and die in their unbelief.

Reader, unbelief is a wicked thing and a harmful thing. It is a sin against God when we refuse to believe His word, and it is the sure way to spend hell in eternity. Guard your heart against the sin of unbelief.