

## Summer 2006 - King's Centre Church, Sheffield

Father's Day (18.06.06)

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Believe Mars Bar – You've seen these around, maybe seen the bill-boards?

Footballers & sports people – have great belief. They wouldn't do the things they do (training, hard work, hours & years of dedication) if they didn't have a real depth of belief in themselves, and the 'dream' of playing World Cup football.

BELIEVE – Guinness video clip - <http://www.cliveo.co.uk/videos/guinness%20free%20in.mov>

**Let me ask you the question today – 'What do you believe?'**

- 90% of people when asked will say they believe in God
  - Some people believe Elvis is still alive. Some people even believe they are Elvis
- 90% say they believe in God – but what should we believe about Jesus Christ?

**I want to look this morning at what the bible says about Jesus Christ:**

John 3:16-17 - *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*

On Father's Day – these verses speak of the greatest love of a *father* the world has ever known. God the Father, sending his son – part of his self – into our world to save it, and to secure for us life with God even after human death.

Let me ask you the question today: **"What do you believe?"** And more importantly, **"what are you going to do about it?"**

- I believe in God the Trinity – Father (our heavenly Dad), Son Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit – who links with our spirit and soul so we can communicate with God
- But it's more than just belief for me – and for us in the King's Centre.
  - Because I've chosen to act on it – its become faith in God, and it radically affects the way I live, behave and see myself in life.
- I live like this – I'm a follower of Jesus - because I've seen the reality of what getting into a relationship with God has meant for my real life, and others' too
  - Changed hearts, new hope, inner happiness and inner peace, healing – physical & emotional
  - It gives us a purpose in life, forgiveness for all the mess we make in life and the gunk we carry in our hearts. Change for the better.
- I live like this because I know I need a saviour (like the bible verse says)
  - I don't mind admitting that either. I'm not too self-reliant to think that I've got it all sorted in life. I've got fears, I've got concerns in life.

- For those fathers & parents amongst us (Yasmin my daughter is 1 yr – amazing to see the new life, at same time you realise how precious & fragile human life is) – having kids makes you re-think life & priorities & its meaning.
  - Adrian & Joanna celebrated Olivia & Poppy this morning for similar reasons
- As we remember Father’s Day today - I believe in a heavenly father.....
  - Who is defined by 2 things – love and relationship (regardless of how the media portrays God)
  - But our God is not just perfect and heavenly, but HE takes an active role in our destinies – and proved it by sending his Son Jesus to us on earth
- Let me **talk about Jesus** for a couple of minutes.....
  - Jesus is God – a divine one who touched earth. He put a human face, a human side onto the love and relationship which is at the heart of God
  - I have learnt that the key to a fulfilled life – to true happiness – lies in faith and trust in Jesus
  - Its not through meditation or study – its active, its about relationship with the divine, the chance to give love, and to receive the most extraordinary divine love in return
    - Its not the easy option either – it takes guts, choice, turning belief into action
    - But in return Jesus promised his friends this:
      - He said “I have come that you may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).” (John 10:10)
      - Its more than *life after death*.... Its abundant *life before death* too

“I just can’t believe it”

Some people, when they hear about Jesus like this reply..... ‘I just can’t believe it – its too much to ask of me...’

- I say – ‘don’t dismiss it until you’ve tried it’
- Put Jesus to the test! If He is alive (as we at KC claim, otherwise none of us would have bothered coming to church this morning!) then He’ll answer you!
  - If you have a need (eg. sickness, troubles in life or family) – ask God to heal you, or grab someone who trust from KC to pray with you for it

In Jesus’ day, some men came to ask him whether he was indeed the saviour – the Christ – who we should all engage with.

- He said this in reply:
  - "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised (to life), and the good news (about a new relationship with God) is shared with the poor." (Matt 11:4-5)
  - Its incredible isn’t it? Jesus brought sight to the blind, people are set free by Jesus to live their destinies. That is what life can be like for us – you and me – when we get into relationship with God!

I went to see Da Vinci Code recently – find out what all the fuss is about. Don’t recommend it as a film - Not especially well made & full of inaccuracies about Jesus.

- But there is a line in the film - “Sophie, **all that matters is what you believe**” – repeated again, towards the end of the film.
- I would go a step further.....So allow me to ask you the question again this morning – ‘what do you believe?’ ‘ And what are you going to do about it?’

Today I invite you to think about the claims, the truth, or Jesus Christ.

- I invite you to consider believing in God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit

- I invite you to become friends of God

Life is short. Life is precious, and you only get one chance to get it right! It would be a great shame if we were to lay the wrong foundations.

- We need to be careful not to put our faith in a Dan Brown book
- And if past experience is anything to go by... we shouldn't put too much of our faith in David Beckham & the England football team either
  - These are short-term, feel-good solutions to life's questions. And they don't really satisfy the hunger in us.

Jesus promised me, and he promised you – that **belief in him** which **becomes a life lived in relationship** with God .....

- Brings us into eternal life with God, AND
- a **gateway** to the most fulfilled, abundant life on earth in the here & now.
- **And for me, that is worth believing in!**