

## **What Do We Need to See in Order to Believe?** **John 4:46-54**

*So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." - John 4:48, ESV*

"Seeing is believing," the old saying goes. Many people claim they would believe in God, if only He would show Himself to them- write it on the sky or something like that. Others have said they would believe in Jesus if they had been there to witness His life and miracles, or if they had more verifiable proof of Jesus' life, miracles, death and resurrection.

Interestingly, some of the people in the "seeing is believing" crowd are very dismissive of the eye-witness accounts from the ancient world. Some of them reject these accounts because they view the Bible as a book of propaganda produced by the church. Others reject them because they think ancient people were more gullible and easily fooled. But today's passage shows that the ancient world was full of "seeing is believing" people, just like our world is.

When Jesus said, "*Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe,*" He was not complimenting His audience. Jesus was not a fan of the "seeing is believing" mindset. He expected people to accept God's word on faith, and yet He was gracious and provided us with numerous signs and wonders to strengthen our faith. The sad truth is that Jesus could not only say "*Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe,*" but He could also have said, as He did when He was put on trial, "*Even if you see signs and wonders, you will not believe.*"

The deeper truth regarding the "seeing is believing" mindset is that it is not just wrong-headed but is also actually wrong. Seeing is not believing. Most of the people who saw clearly the signs and wonders Jesus did still rejected Him. They did not want to serve Him, and so their obstacle was not a lack of evidence but a lack of willingness to believe.

The same is true today. God has, in fact, written the evidence of His existence in the skies. Every sunrise and sunset speaks of the master artist who created them. The very minds which people use to rationalize away the existence of God are evidence of God. After all, how does life come from non-life and intelligence come naturally from non-intelligence. It is much more reasonable to believe that a supreme intelligence is responsible for the universe than to believe that it all spontaneously arose from nothing by chance. But the problem is not reason; it's sin. The problem isn't in our heads but in our hearts.

What do we see to see in order to believe? Above all else, I think we need to see our need. We need to see how desperately wrong-headed and wrong-hearted we are, so we can see how Christ can make us right. This is something we cannot see with our physical eyes, but it must be shown to our hearts by the grace of God. Praise God that He does change hearts and open eyes to see the truth, that we might believe and be saved!