

“DO YOU BELIEVE?”

JOHN 3:14-16

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What we believe and follow can make a world of difference. How many stories are there of individuals who have gone aside after a mirage in the desert only to find, after many miles off the right path, that nothing at all is there?

I find it interesting that when we see a mirage we always seem to see water, but no trees or lush vegetation. A mirage seems to promise life-giving sustenance while at the same time giving no evidence that anything else can survive from its provision. (Isn't there a casino that promises happiness, wealth and good pleasure called "The Mirage?") The point? To a traveler, it is not just a belief that helps them, but believing the truth!

A desert wayfarer knows that they must trust a guide, either a man or book, if they are to get to their destination. In Christ's discussion with Nicodemus, He reveals Himself as the Guide and the Answer...The only one who can meet our need in this desert called life.

Do you believe?

BACKGROUND

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THE PLAN

JOHN 3:14, 15

- Christ draws upon a **true** story from Numbers 21.
 - Serpents were sent among the people because of **unbelief** and **rebellion**.
 - These snakes caused fear and death through a **painful process**.
 - Men were asked to **"look"** to a bronze serpent, nothing else! The serpent was a **picture** of what caused their condition!
 - To look was to **believe** God's answer for their situation and be **healed**.

●Christ's point? He, Christ, would be lifted up:

1. The very symbol of **suffering**, shame and sorrows.
2. Becoming **sin** on our behalf.
3. So that we would only have to "look" or believe, and be **saved!!!**

WHAT?! WHY?

JOHN 3:16

●God loved the **world**.

- Every soul you see is a **candidate** for heaven!
- (Yes...world *means* world, John 17:9)

●This love cost Him His **Son**.

- This was our "**price**" in the slave market of sin.

●The results are **eternal**.

- Someday **judgment** will come!
- Belief is the beginning of **transformation**:
 - ✓ of our **lip** and life.
 - ✓ of our **beliefs**.
 - ✓ of our **destination**.

WHAT HAPPENED ?

- There is no recorded **response** from Nicodemus.
 - God wanted **us** to respond to the **truth**.
 - Each one's response is **personal**.

THOUGHTS

1.

2.