

Dismissing the Lying Witness

We've all heard stories that are so far-fetched that we instantly dismiss them as nothing more than tall tales. The type of story that, in a word is, "unbelievable." Our use of this word has become so prevalent in the modern, western lexicon that all of us, this author included, have used it without ever thinking about its true meaning. Its use has become our ingrained habit of describing the amazing.

The word "unbelievable" is an adjective meaning that something is unlikely to be true. It's also used to describe something so great or extreme that it's very difficult to believe.

Synonyms for unbelievable include its Latin cousin, incredible. Additionally: implausible, far-fetched, preposterous, impossible, unconvincing, unlikely, and the list continues even to include words that have nothing to do with its etymology.

It's thought that the word came to use in the fifteenth century and was derived from "incredible," which also means: something that was unbelievable or surpassing belief as to what is possible.

It's derived from the Latin, "incredibilis" which means not to be believed. No credibility? No credit. We can't trust someone who won't tell the truth—which brings me back to my title.

Some of us know what the inside of a courtroom looks like. Without venturing into the cause for our reasons for being there, whether defendant, judge, advocate, or juror, most of us know that inside the courtroom, there is an inherent reverence for the proceedings that take place. If not, the judge, in his or her imperial manner, has a way of making everyone sit up straight and pay attention. But also, in that courtroom, there's another person who will be asked to perform one of the most vital roles of the proceedings. That person is the witness.

The judge, or if it's a criminal case, the jury will bear the burden of determining if the witness is telling the truth or not. To put it another way, is the witness believable or unbelievable? The unbelievable witness can be judged to be mistaken. Worse yet, the unbelievable witness can even be tried for perjury, the crime of lying under oath. The lying witness must certainly be dismissed.

Whose Report Will You Believe?

The apostle Paul in Romans 3:4 wrote, "God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." As human flesh and blood, we are all prone to error. There is a propensity in mankind to stray from the truth. It's no wonder that the word "unbelievable" came into existence because certainly, we have all at some place in time wondered if someone was telling us the truth or not.

But when it comes to our miraculous God, His amazing mercy, His marvelous love, and kindness to us, there is nothing, absolutely nothing unbelievable about Him! It's simply His nature to be magnanimous toward us, His creation, His people. His great works will stretch our imaginations to realms we never thought possible, but whenever that happens, we need to believe! It's imperative. *We must* believe! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

I have come to fully comprehend that no matter the boundaries of my mind, there is nothing unbelievable about our God! There is nothing unbelievable about His works, His generosity, and mighty acts. Unbelievable is a word that could describe extreme foolishness, human ineptitude, or human depravity.

But when it comes to the incomprehensible, miraculous works of our Mighty God, I'd prefer to say, "Wonderful!", "Marvelous!", "Amazing!" Because, of a truth, Jesus really, really is. He's more than amazing. But He's never, ever unbelievable.

What Does the Bible Say About Unbelief?

And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief. (Matthew 13:58)

And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed *them*. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching. (Mark 6:5-6)

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. (Hebrews 3:12)

So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. (Hebrews 3:19)

Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief. (Hebrews 4:6)

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. (Hebrews 4:11)

Yet in this thing ye did not believe the LORD your God. (Deuteronomy 1:32)

Likewise when the LORD sent you from Kadeshbarnea, saying, Go up and possess the land which I have given you; then ye rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God, and ye believed him not, nor hearkened to his voice. (Deuteronomy 9:23)

Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation. (Psalms 78:22)

For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works. (Psalms 78:32)

Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word. (Psalms 106:24)

Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken. (Luke 24:25)

But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him. (John 12:37)

Of sin, because they believe not on me. (John 16:9)

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16)

And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. (Mark 9:24)

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