

What we Believe

What we believe is a large kettle of fish. A few years ago, I was sitting in a sociology class when reality hit me. The professor was asking her students if the homeless are makers of their own destiny. I was so sure I knew the answer. It was what I believed. I believed that most of them are bums. People who are sucking the system dry. They were the lazy and the dregs of society. Then she began to pull out the stats on who the homeless are. They are those who have mental disorders. People who nobody would care for. I met many homeless that came from other countries and tried to fit in. It was an overwhelming number of humans that society refused to care for.

Someone said to me that we should not give to the homeless because they will just use it for drugs. Yet, what was missing in this conversation was why they are homeless in the first place. The drugs and alcohol are a side effect. The rejection from their peers is another story. The most stunning part to me is two things. One is that my daughter has mental issues. What if we did not help her. What if she ran away? Are the streets a place she could find herself? The second is native women. They are the most abused group of people on the planet. Stats prove that nobody really cares about homeless native women. Lastly, I am not a social justice warrior. People need to give effort. What if the things I believe are getting in the way of helping those society rejects?

I do not intend on talking about the homeless. Yet, I let my unfounded beliefs get in the way. I was so sure. Pushing my back against the wall, I would have to admit that I believe a great many things that I cannot prove. Yet, I believe them. My pastor made a great point today. We would die on a hill of a political party. However, people run political parties, right? Don't they all have politicians in them? Aren't many of them liars to get hired? There are two things inside

this. The first is my beliefs about the opposition party compared to mine. They are crooked and corrupt. I believe it! I believe the forest fires were deliberately set by climate change activists. I am not the only one who believes it, either! Secondary, I do not need facts. My belief is all I need. In-fact we all believe things without facts. We just do.

What does God have to say. Isaiah 59: 14-15 “*So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. 15 Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.*” God is no dummy. Oh, but some believe He is. They just believe that the Bible is stupid. Yet, this whole chapter pegs humankind. God knows us way better than we think. How long will we play this game. Every year we believe new things. Oh, you don't? What do you believe about Covid? What do you believe about Trump? Do you think our current electoral system is rigged? What else have you started believing?

I emphatically did not believe in God 24 years ago. There was no way (in hell) I would attend church. In one night, all alone, I changed my mind. Proof, facts, truth? I had none of those things that night. I decided to believe in God all by myself. Yet, I am sure He exists still 24 years later. I have witnessed too much. On the flip side, I thought I knew a great many things about the world and religion. Wrong! I was dead wrong. It is a scary prospect when (all you knew) is suddenly washed away. Even scarier is this. What do I believe right now that has no proof? Things that have no facts or truth. You just believe it. Are we living a self-imposed lie pitted against the real world around us? Am I, are you?

A well-respected atheist was asked this question: *if you found out that Christianity was utterly true would you accept it?* He said no. Even if the facts lined up, I must reject it. I would bet all my money that nobody on this earth today believes everything that is considered truth. We

must make up false facts to be comfortable. It makes our life seem safer. Yet, we are willing to make a false life. A false world. Why? Honestly, why? Isn't the truth stable? Isn't it better? The fact is people want to create a false idea. To live in a false world of their own making.

Again, my Pastor talks about the Franken-Jesus. The Jesus found within the pages of scripture paints Him a certain way. Yet, we all tweak Jesus just a little. People say they believe in miracles but claim Jesus never walked on water. Others say Jesus is a teacher but not God. It is interesting that a certain portion of the Bible is true to you. Yet, there are parts that you do not believe. Why are your parts the right way? The real world is probably a place that makes humans look less than stellar. The life you show us looks cleaner than it is. What we believe is making a fake religion and life look better than the truth. The truth is: how odd we are.