



**SERIES: John Believe**  
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**Monday, February 27, 2023**  
**Scripture: John 11:43-48**  
**TITLE: Pushing Jesus Away**

“What if it’s true? What if what the Bible says about Jesus is true?” That is the question that a friend began wrestling with as I discipled him. I think he was wrestling with the right question. If the Bible is true and if Jesus is who he claimed to be, that should move us to action and to change. And that’s exactly what people had to wrestle with two thousand years ago.

Let’s continue walking with Jesus in the book of John. Let’s pick it up as Jesus performs a miracle and begin to wrestle with its implications. Here’s what John records in John 11:43-48.

“When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

If you’ve been with us on this study of John, you know those Pharisees are a handful. They’re the religious authorities who don’t want to show people the way to heaven but be the way to heaven.

Well, Jesus has been continuing to prove His deity. He has healed the sick, restored the crippled, and now made the dead come back to life. But, instead of considering the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah, they continue to despise Jesus. He is growing His popularity and influence which diminishes their own power and authority.

Jesus’ consistent message is that religion is a dead-end street. It won’t get you closer to God. It takes you away from Him. So, Jesus says, “Forget religion. Know me. Believe in me. Follow me. Then you will know rebirth and experience the Kingdom of God.”

People are seeing the signs of Jesus and believing Him. The Pharisees are witnesses of these miracles including this miracle. But they will not believe. For them the cost is far too high.

That’s the problem with religion. It removes Jesus from the driver’s seat and puts us in control. But when we realize that we have no power in our salvation or spiritual status, we begin to see Jesus clearly and believe.

So here's my challenge for you today: stop pushing Jesus away. We all do it. For some of us, we know Jesus is special. We know He has done the miraculous, but we count the cost as "too high." We like to be the captain of the ship. But how well is it working for you? Are you experiencing the peace, hope, and assurance you desire. If not, stop pushing Jesus away.

If you do believe in Jesus, do you trust Him? Are you following Him? Are you giving Him authority over your life? If not, you should. The one who heals the sick, restores the cripple, raises the dead, and saves our souls, offers us life to the fullest if we trust Him.