

# **“What Would We Have Done?”**

## **John 20:29**

### Introduction

- I. What would have been our reaction to hearing preachers in the first century?
- II. Would we have responded more favorably if we were to be eyewitnesses to their teaching and preaching?
- III. Maybe our reactions today would tell us a lot about how we would have reacted back then.

### Discussion

- I. Would we have believed John?
  - A. John preached in the wilderness, which means that people would have traveled to hear him (Matt. 3:1-2).
  - B. John did not dress as fanciful as did others, and he also had an interesting diet (Matt. 3:4).
  - C. John called some of the religious people a “generation of vipers” (Matt. 3:7).
  - D. We probably would not have believed John if we refuse to travel to hear the Word, make judgments about others based on their apparel, and become irritated when a preacher addresses my own faults (Matt. 12:42; James 2:1-4; Matt. 23:13-15).
- II. Would we have believed Peter?
  - A. Peter was not a highly educated man (Acts 4:13).
  - B. Peter was a man that formerly denied Jesus on three occasions (Matt. 26:69-75).
  - C. We probably would not have believed Peter if we are only willing to listen to men with academic prominence, and if we are not willing to listen to men who have made mistakes and committed sins in their pasts (1 Cor. 1:18-29; Matt. 18:21-22; Luke 17:3-4).
- III. Would we have believed Paul?
  - A. Paul was a former blasphemer and persecutor of the church (1 Tim. 1:13).
  - B. Paul did not use fanciful words that made him appear intelligent (1 Cor. 2:3-4).
  - C. Paul was considered a “weak” person (2 Cor. 10:10).
  - D. We probably would not have believed Paul if we hold a man's past against him, refuse to listen to anyone but a great orator, and make judgments based on physical appearance (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Rom 16:17-18; 1 Sam. 16:7).

### Conclusion

- I. So, what would we have done?
- II. Maybe our actions today reflect what our actions would have been then.