



July 30, 2017  
Carl Hofmann  
*Believe It, Or Not!*

### John 12:37–50

Re-read the passage above. Consider these reflection questions:

1) John 12:37–41. Do a spiritual “heart-scan”: when it comes to believing (that is, trusting) in Jesus, is your heart: a) hard and closed; b) soft and open; or c) somewhere in between? Where and how?

2) John 12:42–43. Like the Jewish leaders of Jesus’ day, many of us can be fearful to acknowledge our faith publicly before others. How is it with you? When it comes to confessing Jesus, where are you on the scale of fearless to fearful? What influences you?

3) Brennan Manning, in his book *Ruthless Trust* says that Christian faith is “a practical trust in God’s loving care under whatever pressure.” Where is it particularly hard for you to trust Jesus? Is it in your belovedness? His complete and free acceptance of you despite your feeling unworthy? His ability to provide for you? The future? Your finances? Loved ones? Take some time to reflect and pray about trusting Jesus

## Scripture passage for August 6

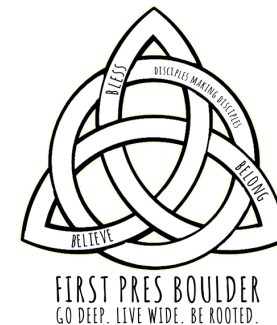
One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. <sup>2</sup> There in front of him was a man suffering from abnormal swelling of his body. <sup>3</sup> Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?” <sup>4</sup> But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way.

<sup>5</sup> Then he asked them, “If one of you has a child or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?” <sup>6</sup> And they had nothing to say.

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: <sup>8</sup> “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. <sup>9</sup> If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. <sup>11</sup> For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Luke 14:1–14



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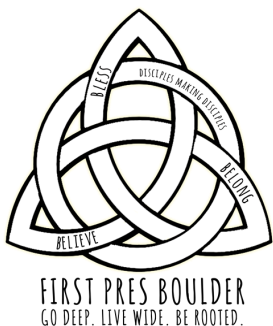
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