



Sermon Discussion Guide

JESUS CHRIST: THE OBJECT OF OUR FAITH

John 3:16

Kevin DeYoung, 11/27/22

Outline (2 questions)

- What is the nature of Christian faith?
 - Why is *faith* the instrument by which someone becomes a Christian?
1. Which of the following animals (if you were unarmed) do you think you could beat in a fight: rat, house cat, goose, eagle, dog, lion, crocodile, gorilla, elephant, grizzly bear?
 2. We don't like to think of ourselves as helpless and needy. Yet, believing in Jesus is admitting that you are powerless to the most dangerous thing in your life: your sin. How is this counter cultural? In what ways does this go against our own nature?
 3. Kevin mentioned 3 analogies of saving faith. Sitting in a chair, skating on ice, and getting on the tight-roper's back. How do these help us understand saving faith?¹
 4. Have you used illustrations like these to help with evangelism?
 5. Faith is the *instrumental* cause of salvation. Not the *meritorious* cause. What's the difference, and why is it so important?
 6. Many people are okay with *adding* Jesus to their life, as long as that means living for other things too. How is marriage a helpful illustration for true faith?
 7. Faith is not just a formal checklist, nor a formula to recite, nor a foam finger. True faith shows itself in being a disciple. Kevin said, "The nature of Christian faith is that it embraces Jesus, and stays with Jesus." What are some truths from Scripture that have helped you persevere in the Christian life?

¹ It's one thing to say that the chair is sturdy from a distance. It's another thing to actually sit in the chair, or go on the ice.