

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

Luke 8:40-56

INTRO Bees cannot fly

According to the laws of aerodynamics the weight of the body is too heavy for the size of the wings to allow lift off at the speed that bees fly – 15 mph. In other words, an aeroplane the weight and shape of a bee, flying at the speed bees fly could not take off, let alone remain airborne.

Actually this idea probably started off as a joke at a dinner party, but it ended up in a book written by a French etymologist called Antoine Magnan in 1934. The problem with these calculations is that they are based on stationary wings, whereas a bee is able to move its wings.

And of course we all know that bees can fly, because we see them in our gardens. In fact bees can fly a long way – a 3 mile radius from their hives to forage – that is equivalent of a person flying from Scotland to the south of Spain and back.

Nevertheless, nobody has been able to calculate how a bee flies – it is still a scientific mystery.

Some people say that miracles do not happen – Not scientifically possible for people to be healed or raised from the dead

Yet the eyewitness accounts in the bible tell us that JESUS did heal people and even raised them from the dead

Can you believe it?

MARK 5:21-43 YES/NO/MAYBE

YES – THE WOMAN WHO TOUCHED JESUS CLOAK

v.25,26 *“a woman suffered terribly from severe bleeding for 12 years. She had been treated by many doctors and spent all her money, but instead of getting better she got worse”* – healing seemed impossible

v.27 *“If I just touch his clothes, I will get well”*

Certain – strong faith

v.34 *Jesus said, “your faith has made you well”*

NO – THE MESSENGERS

v.35 *“Your daughter has died. Why bother the Teacher any longer?”*

When Jesus arrived at the house there were people crying and wailing. When Jesus said *“she is only sleeping”* they laughed at him – mocked him – did not believe that Jesus could raise her from the dead

Mt 13:58 *“Jesus did not do many miracles in Nazareth because they did not have faith”*

Jesus paid no attention to the messengers. He put the mockers out

He took with him people who did have faith – Peter, John, James, Jairus & wife

MAYBE – DISCIPLES & PARENTS

v.36 *“Don’t be afraid, just believe”*

Lk 17:5,6 *you only need” faith as big as a mustard seed”*

Not certain faith like the woman but willing to follow Jesus and trust in him
Believe that Jesus is able to work for good

If they had had certain faith then they would not have been surprised when Jesus healed the girl, but when the girl was brought back to life they were amazed – this was not what they were expecting

An encouragement to us – we may not have strong, certain faith but we can hope and trust just as the disciples and Jairus & his wife did

Ep 3:20 The Lord is able to do much more than we can ever ask for or even imagine, by means of his power working in us

APPLICATION

Jesus could bring the dead back to life

He can bring spiritual life to our parish

This may seem humanly impossible – there is so much against us – unbelief, apathy, no felt need, people are busy, other activities, materialism

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- **PRAY** – Jairus begged Jesus earnestly to heal his daughter
- **BELIEVE** – Jesus can do what we cannot do – bring spiritual life

SONG

We can plough and dig the land

We can plant and sow

We can water, we can weed

But we can't make things grow

That is something only God can do

Only God can make things grow

- **PUT OUR FAITH INTO PRACTICE**

The woman went out into the crowd, came forward

Jairus went out of the house to ask Jesus to come

We can invite people to come to church

Only 1 in 1000 respond to a leaflet drop

People respond to personal invitations

MESSY CHURCH

HARVEST SERVICE AND MEAL

Inviting people is scary – what if they say no – we feel embarrassed

We may feel afraid of failure

Jesus says to us “Don't be afraid, only believe”

When we pray, believe and put our faith into practice, like the disciples and Jairus and his wife, we too will be amazed at what Jesus can do