

MONDAY, AUGUST 23RD

DAILY READING ASSIGNMENT: **John 12-16**

"Tough Crowd"

SCRIPTURE "But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in him."

OBSERVATION

Didn't believe him...are you kidding me?!?! After the first eleven chapters of John's gospel--filled with signs and wonders of Jesus, the miracle-working Messiah--most still didn't believe. That's a tough crowd!

Apparently the "WOW" effect of miracles is short-lived. While the text doesn't say it, one wonders if the attitude was, "So he turned water into wine, healed lepers, raised Lazarus from the dead, etc. Big deal. What has he done for ME lately?"

Whatever the reason, lots of people remained unconvinced that Jesus was who he claimed to be: the way, the truth and the life--the only way to God the Father (see John 14:6).

APPLICATION

Most doubted...but not all. Some believed. Some saw the miracles for what they were--a sign that pointed beyond themselves to the miracle-worker. Don't ask me how, but some "got it." Some believed that Jesus truly was the Son of God and their lives were changed.

It's the same today. We don't tend to see the same sorts of miracles people saw Jesus perform (I haven't turned on the water and had a nice glass of Cabernet Sauvignon), but the reaction to Jesus still comes down to a few who believe and the majority who doubt.

Perhaps the greatest miracle and witness we can give to our unbelieving friends is the miracle of our own transformed lives. Are you a walking miracle? Is the fruit of your life (see Galatians 5:22-23) evidence enough that God is real and that Jesus changes people from the inside out? Perhaps this should be all of our prayer...

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, let me be your miracle. Let my life so reflect your goodness and grace that it causes people to long to meet you. Amen.

S.O.A.P. Entry Author: Nick Twomey