

formed

*Words That Move Us
From Believer to Disciple*

OPINION OR CONVICTION

*Formed
Week 10
John Reilly*

KEY POINTS

- There is a fundamental difference between an opinion and a conviction. An opinion is something you hold, while a conviction is something that holds you.
- The Word of God is not merely content to be consumed like information but a powerful, living resource that points to Jesus Christ, the living Word.
- Jesus addresses humanity's deepest need, which is the restoration of the broken relationship between people and God, not simply the relief of physical or circumstantial suffering.
- Followers of Jesus who are close to Him can unintentionally become obstacles that prevent others from reaching Him, simply by becoming comfortable and unaware of those on the outside.
- True conviction works its way into a person's calendar, conversations, relationships, and behavior in ways that are visible to others, even those who disagree.
- Being a spectator of what Jesus does in others' lives is not enough. Believers are invited to participate in the work he is doing.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Mark 2:1-12

John 1:1, 14

John 4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The four friends in Mark 2 were so convinced of Jesus's ability to help that they tore through a roof to get their friend to Him. What is the most bold or unconventional thing your faith has ever compelled you to do for someone else?
2. Jesus addressed the paralyzed man's sin before his physical condition, revealing a deeper need beneath the obvious one. In what areas of your own life might you be focused on surface-level problems while a deeper spiritual need goes unaddressed?
3. Jesus did not primarily come to make your life better but to restore what was broken between humanity and God. How does this reframe the way you think about what you are actually asking for when you pray?
4. The crowd in Mark 2 was not hostile, yet their desire to be near Jesus unknowingly prevented someone else from reaching Him. In what subtle ways might your habits, preferences, or comfort as a believer be creating obstacles for others who are seeking Jesus?
5. Heinrich Heine observed that it takes more than an opinion to build a Gothic cathedral, and the speaker applies that same idea to following Jesus. What would it look like practically for you to move from holding opinions about your faith to being held by convictions?

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