

# Epilogue: What's Next?

From Timothy Keller's  
The Reason For God

# Examining Our Motives

- *Motivations are nearly always mixed. If you wait until your motives are pure and unselfish before you do something, you will wait forever.*
- *Are you getting into Christianity to serve God, or to get God to serve you?*
- *We must face up to the fact that we owe him our entire lives just because of what he has done for us already.*

# He Was or Wasn't / Is or Isn't

- *The magnitude of Jesus' statements about himself force us into an all-or-nothing choice. Either he was...*
  - *God incarnate, the maker of Heaven and earth, the Lord of the Sabbath, the Word made flesh, the Way, the Truth, the Light, the fulfillment of scripture. (See John 1:1-5, 9-14), or*
  - *He was a liar, delusional, deceiver, lunatic, megalomaniac, fraud*

# No Compromise

- There can be no compromise here. Either he is who he said he was, or he wasn't.
- Christians are people who let the reality of Jesus change everything about who they are, how they see, and how they live.

# All Or Nothing Proposition

- *An all or nothing” proposition is very intimidating it freezes people into inaction, or worse, scares them away.*
- *You are either all in or all out.*

# Take an Inventory

- If you are not ready to make such a big commitment, don't simply put things on hold, expecting your feelings to change or that the barriers will melt away. Take an inventory in order to discern the specific reasons for your reservations

# What Stands in the Way

Here is a possible set of questions to help you in this process:

- **Content issues:** Are there any parts of the Christian message – creation, sin, Jesus as God, Cross, resurrection – that you don't understand or agree with?
- **Coherence issues:** Are there still doubts and objections to the Christian faith that you cannot resolve?
- **Cost issues:** Do you perceive that a move into full Christian faith will cost you something dear? What fears do you have about commitment?

# Final Suggestions

- *As with any learning, it is best to learn in a community of others who are at various stages in their own pilgrimage. Spend time in a Christian Church to talk with Christians and to hear how they have handled these doubts themselves. Don't go it alone.*
- *Remember that becoming a Christian is not simply a matter of ticking off a list of things to believe and do.*
- *Ultimately faith and certainty grows as we get to know more about Jesus, who he was, and what he did.*