

# Beyond Believing – Part 2

Roxborough Bible Chapel

April 2, 2017

# Part 1 – Recap

- Threshold Models of Collective Behavior
- To understand how certain people behave the social context matters
  - Internally we have our beliefs
  - Externally we have these thresholds
- Threshold is the number of “other” people doing something in order to for you join in

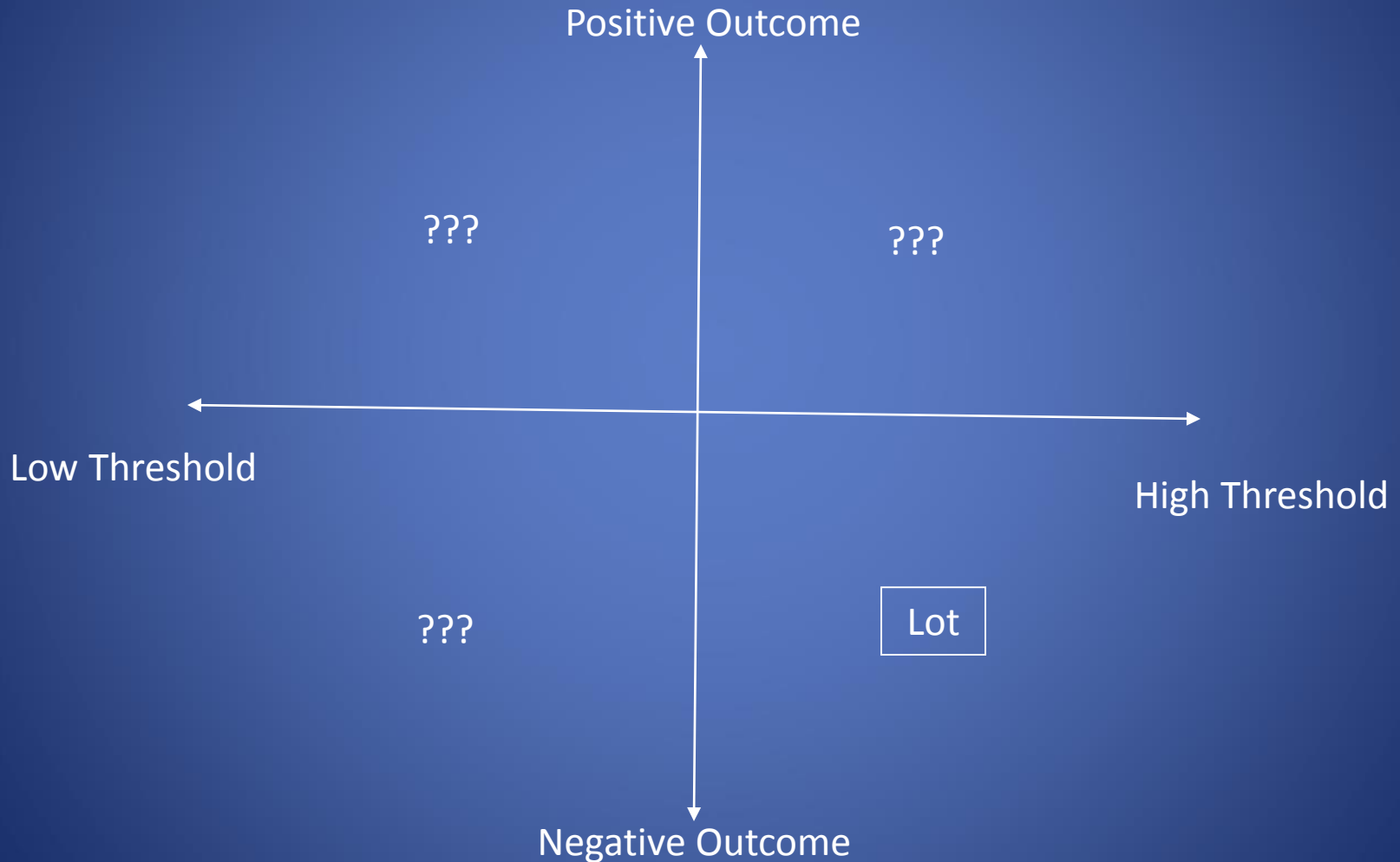
What people **BELIEVE** may not help us much in understanding how people **BEHAVE**, and vice versa

# Part 1 – Recap

- Wilt Chamberlain
  - His desire to become a better basketball player wasn't as strong as his desire to not feel foolish
- Lot (Abraham's nephew)
  - His desire to go beyond believing in God wasn't as strong as his desire to blend in with what was popular
  - James 2:14-23 highlights Abraham example of faith that was completed by his works

Both Wilt Chamberlain and Lot were high threshold guys

# Concept in action in the Bible



# Next Example – Peter

- What did Peter believe about Jesus?
- Luke 5:1-11
  - Peter's sinfulness contrasted against Jesus
- Matthew 14:28-29
  - Jesus' power over creation
- Matthew 16:13-17
  - Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God
- John 6:66-69
  - Jesus has the words of eternal life and is the Holy One of God

# Connecting Belief to Behavior

- Peter's understanding of who Jesus is is spot on
- What type of behavior should we expect?
  - Peter strongly rejects the idea that he would ever do anything hurtful towards Jesus
- Key takeaway from the thresholds concept
  - What people believe may not help us much in understanding how people behave, and vice versa
  - Social context matters

# The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak

- Romans 7:15-25
- In the flesh we can do no good
- Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
- Jesus warns Peter to pray that you do not enter into temptation
  - We should do the same!

# Concept in action in the Bible

