



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Monday, September 12, 2022

Scripture: John 1:29-34

TITLE: From Conceptual to Actual

Do you remember when Jesus went from being a name to your savior? Do you remember when Jesus went from a fictional character to the real deal? What was it that moved Jesus from conceptual to actual?

For John the Baptist, it was a special message from God. What was that message? Let's turn back to John 1:29-31.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."

The day after the exchange between the Pharisees, Levites, and John the Baptist, John makes a move. He moves from waiting for the Messiah to identifying the Messiah. John goes from preparing to embracing.

He sees Jesus coming down to the Jordan river, and he declares, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." For nearly 4,000 years, since the fall of man, humanity had been waiting for its savior. Finally, the one who would crush Satan arrived.

But what makes this passage curious is John's words in verses 31 and 33. John says, "I myself did not know him." What does that mean? Wasn't Jesus and John cousins? Yes, they were. He knew Jesus, but he must not have known that Jesus was the Messiah.

But then, continuing in John 1:32-34, it says,

And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

We see that the Spirit identifies to John that Jesus is the Coming One. God himself revealed this truth to John.

His coming to Jesus moment really wasn't any different than yours. Of course, you didn't see the Spirit coming upon Jesus and declaring this truth. But what 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 confirms is that

it is the Spirit who saves us. In John 16, we discover that the Spirit convicts the heart of its need for Jesus.

In this moment of illumination, John knows, confirms, and declares that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

So here's my challenge for you today: share Jesus with someone who is far from God. Jesus came to remove our sin. And God asks us to reveal Jesus and His gift to others. What a privilege that is. So who is one person who needs to meet Jesus? Who is that one person who needs to move Jesus from conceptual to actual? Share Jesus with them and allow the Spirit to do the rest.

When we share Jesus with the world, the world will win the day.