



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Friday, September 23, 2022

Scripture: John 3:13-15

TITLE: Jesus Knows the Way

If I were to ask you to describe my home, what would you say? Is it a ranch? A Two story? How many bedrooms? Does it have a fireplace? How many holes are in the walls from having 3 boys? You'd say, "I have no idea! I've never been there before!"

Okay, sure, but can you at least tell me how to get there? Instead, you'd say, "Nat, you tell me about your home. You've been there. You know it better than anyone else. What's it like and how do I get there?"

This is why we need to listen to Jesus about Heaven and experiencing it to its fullest. And Jesus has some important words for us today about this very topic.

Let's continue our study of the Book of John in John 3:13-15.

No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Reminder, Jesus has been talking with Nicodemus about entering the Kingdom of God. It's a discussion about heaven and how to experience it. Jesus has turned Nicodemus' world upside down. Jesus told him that he must be reborn. It's not about being a Pharisee or playing the game of religion.

So Jesus continues here. He says, no one has been able to make their way to heaven except for me, the one who came from heaven. He knows heaven and knows the way to heaven because He created heaven. He is from heaven. He has come from there so he knows the way. This is what Jesus is saying.

Then Jesus points back to a familiar passage from Numbers 21. The people were complaining and sinning against God, so God sends poisonous snakes as a judgment. They're biting the people; some of the people are dying. Moses intervenes for them. God tells him, "Take a bronze snake, put it on a stick, and lift it up, and those who look up on the bronze snake on this stick will be saved." This was a preview or a foreshadowing, that one day God would become flesh and Himself would be hung on a stick or a cross. This was a picture of Crucifixion for the payment of sins.

Jesus said, "so must the Son of Man be lifted up." There is no other way to heaven but through Jesus' death on the cross. It is through this sacrificial act that mankind can experience peace with God and eternal life. Hebrews 9:22 says,

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Jesus is the authority on heaven. He knows what it's like and how to get there.

So here's my challenge for you today: Celebrate Jesus' sacrifice. In reasons we'll never know, Jesus came to earth to die on a cross for our sins. We can't buy it. We can't earn it. It's a gift for those who receive it and believe. So if you've done this celebrate.

If you haven't done this, consider this incredible gift. Eternity in heaven is available for you today.

Jesus's knows heaven and he knows the way. He is the authority. Let's follow him today.