



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Monday, October 3, 2022

Scripture: John 4:16-26

TITLE: Loving the Unloveable

Who is the most loving person you know? What is it in their behavior that conveys this love? For me, it's my wife. I mean, she puts up with me every day. But in all seriousness, she loves me in spite of my faults and sins. She sees and experiences all my warts – both literal and metaphorical. She knows my deepest sins and my hardest struggles and yet she loves me completely. That's true love.

What makes this kind of love possible? The secret to loving without reservation is found John 4:16-26.

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Jesus has been conversing with this Samaritan woman at a well. He stops for a drink and she comes out in the heat of the day. She has a story and we just learned it. She has been around the block with men and is currently living in sin. And yet, Jesus comes to her. He talks with her. He listens to her. And He offers her eternal life. Love without reservation.

This is Jesus. We know from John 3 that God sent Him to save those who believe. The world stands condemned in their sin. This woman was a sinner and had a reputation for it. Yet, Jesus didn't avoid her. He engages her and reveals salvation is available to her. He was the Messiah. Here He identifies himself outright as God and Savior.

Salvation is a free gift. And true salvation comes through repentance. Recognizing one's sinfulness and turning to Jesus Christ as the only hope for salvation. There is no other way.

So here's my challenge for you today: Love the unlovable. We are all sinners who need a Savior. The only difference between the saved and unsaved is believing in Jesus. And God has given us the privilege of sharing His love and His Gospel with others. So who is one person you can show Christ's love and share His gospel. Do so. The world is thirsty for that living water that is sure to satisfy forever.

When we love the unloveable Jesus' way, we will win the day.