



**SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Saturday, October 15, 2022**

**Scripture: John 5:21-23**

**TITLE: Is Jesus Lying?**

There is no retake on the test of life. In the end, we all die and will face either judgment or reward. There's no negotiating the verdict. There is no appeal. It is either eternity with Jesus or eternity apart from Jesus. There is no retake on the exam. The clock is running out for everyone. Or is there another choice? Do all roads lead to God? Is Jesus lying or confused? Let's continue our study of the Book of John for the answers. Here is what Jesus says in John 5:21-23.

For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

Here we are in the third discourse of Jesus in the Book of John. He's answering the religious leaders who are mad at him. First, He healed a man on the Sabbath, and now He's claiming to be God. Two very big "no-no's" for the religious elite in Jesus' day.

In the previous verses, Jesus said, "Look, I'm not lying. God and I are in lockstep because I am God in the flesh. You've heard and seen the proof through my miracles. And you ain't seen nothing yet.

Now He continues by saying, God gives and takes life. He is the author of it. But guess what? I am God. I have the same power given to me by the Father. I can bring the dead back to life, but the real miracle is I can make spiritually dead people live.

The Father has given me the authority to judge. In chapter 3, we see that Jesus did not come to judge the world but to save it. So is He contradicting His previous message? No. It would be clarified that the world stands condemned in their sin. They don't need Jesus' to declare them unrighteous. It's already declared. He came to offer people a pardon at His cost.

And at the end of time, the day is coming when Jesus will judge all people. Those who believe in Him experience eternity with God and the rewards of their righteous acts. Those condemned in their sin receive just punishment in eternity in Hell. Jesus has the authority to do this because He is God.

And just to make things clear, Jesus says, "Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him." In other words, the only way to God is through Jesus. Hinduism won't work. Buddhism won't work. Judaism won't work. Islam won't work. The buffet method of religion won't work. Religion won't work. Salvation is found in Christ alone.

The question is, do you believe it? According to a recent study, 37% of lead pastors hold a biblical worldview. If this is true, then those who follow them have even less.

So my challenge for you today is to settle the matter of Christ's claim. He is God, or He is not. He is the way to God, or He is not. What is it you believe? We've spent six weeks watching and listening to Jesus. What is it you believe about Jesus?

John wrote this gospel. You might know and believe in Jesus. If Jesus is who He said He is, why wouldn't you believe it?