



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Scripture: John 6:1-6

TITLE: Why Follow Jesus?

If you are a Christian today, why do you follow Jesus? What is it about Jesus that makes you so interested in Him? Is it because of your family and childhood? Is it something that just seemed like a good idea. Kind of an insurance policy? Is it a one-way ticket to heaven or is it something more?

If you're not a Christian, why are you here today? We've been walking with Jesus for nearly two months, and you've seen and heard a lot. What is it about Jesus that is so interesting?

For everyone, what you think and believe about Jesus really does matter. Why you follow Him matters to God. Don't believe me? Let's keep walking with Jesus as we turn to John 6. Let's pick it up in John 6:1-6.

After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.

In chapter 5, Jesus heals the crippled or sick man at the Pool of Bethesda. This results in a lengthy discourse about His actions. The religious leaders are angry with Jesus. So in this discourse Jesus provides 5 witnesses to His deity.

Now we pick up chapter 6. It says, "After this." After what? It's events we just talked about. We're not 100% sure how long it's been but it's been at least 6 months up to 12 months since the healing and discourse.

John says, that Jesus and His disciples went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee and the Sea of Tiberias. These are two names for the same location. John is writing to both Jews and Gentiles. So we will see dual descriptions in the book for this reason.

Jesus has been gaining a reputation as a miracle worker, so people are following Him. It's likely part of the crowds are pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem for the Passover. But people are following Jesus. Not for salvation but for the show. He can do things no one else can do. And they want healing or at least to witness the healing. Why you follow Jesus matters.

Jesus takes the disciples up on the hill for a rest, a view, and probably some teaching. But the crowds know where He is at. So they begin making their way to Him and the disciples. John writes, “seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him.” “Coming” actually has the picture of “streaming.” It was one after another after another after another. It was like Memorial Stadium on Husker game day. The crowds just keep coming.

All the synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, contain this story. But only John contains the conversation with Phillip. He asks Phillip, “Well, Philip, they need food. I don’t see a 7/11. What are we going to do?”

He asked Phillip this to test him. A good teacher is there to prepare and grow the students. James tells us that trials are there to mature us. The disciples have about one more year with Jesus so He’s trying to prepare them for that day. He’s preparing you today for a life on purpose and for a purpose.

So here’s my challenge for you today: open your eyes. God is preparing you for His mission. I don’t know the specifics, but God is preparing you to use you for His glory and to expand and develop His Kingdom. But you have to see what God is showing you. So open your eyes. Ask God to show you the lesson at hand.

When we are ready for the journey God calls us to, we will win the day!