



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Saturday, November 5, 2022

Scripture: John 6:44-51

TITLE: Don't Just Look at Jesus!

Have you ever received nourishment by looking at food? I haven't. It's like that scene from the movie *Hook* with Robin Williams. Williams is watching the Lost Boys eat invisible food like it's real. And yes, in the movie, their belief made the food real. But in real life, to experience nourishment, we need to eat food.

The same is true for our spiritual hunger. We can't merely acknowledge spiritual nutrition. We need to participate in it practically. How? Jesus has the challenging answer in John 6:45-51.

“It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

In verse 45, Jesus begins by referencing Isaiah 54:13. He is also restating what he said in verse 44 but in different terms. It is not purely your choice to come to God. God must call you and reveal the Son to you. God will teach and you will understand. And by understanding who Jesus is, you finally get to know God.

You see, saying that a person believes in God is nice but ultimately meaningless. God's thumbprint is everywhere. So people may acknowledge God's existence but unless they go through Jesus, they do not really know God.

And this knowing God is through believing in Jesus. It's not by works. It's not by acknowledging an eternal creator. It's by, as Jesus puts it in verse 51, “If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.” Many people acknowledge God. They even acknowledge Jesus. Or at least some kind of Jesus. But unless they eat, or believe, in the real Jesus, they don't know God. They are lost in their sin. They are trapped in the darkness. They cannot look at the bread of life and think to themselves, “Yummy!” And then take an intellectual bite. It doesn't work that way.

You see, people today, try to get to God in their own way. But the result is death. These people were looking for an unlimited pass to the buffet instead of the pathway to God. They could say,

“Jesus, you’re cool! We like what you can do! We believe in you!” But it wasn’t saving faith. It was superficial, empty motion faith. That faith doesn’t save. It leads to death.

Today, Jesus’ offer of salvation is still good. His assessment of the world is still accurate. Religion won’t save. Acknowledging God won’t save you. Going to church, saying your prayers, or posting about Jesus on social will not earn you a ticket to heaven. Stop looking at Jesus and believe.

Your soul longs for peace with God. It’s hungry. It’s thirsty. Nothing will satisfy but a relationship to God through Jesus Christ. He is the bread of life. In him there is life to the fullest. It’s life forever. And it’s available to you. All you need to do is believe.