



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Saturday, November 12, 2022

Scripture: John 7:10-13

TITLE: Censoring Jesus

One of my youngest son's favorite movies is "*Encanto*." In this animated film is the song "We Don't Talk About Bruno." There is this rule that the family will not speak of Bruno because of his reputation. This censorship in the family is what many of us feel like today. We don't talk about Jesus because people do not like Him or His Word. Politics are forbidden but so is Jesus.

Well, this isn't new. The name of Jesus was being censored 2,000 years ago. Don't believe me?

Let's turn back to the Book of John in John 7:10-13.

But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private. The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, "Where is he?" And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, he is leading the people astray." Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.

Jesus has been talking with His brothers. They wanted Him to go to Jerusalem to show off some miracles and grow His audience. Jesus said, "no thank you. It's not my time. But you go. You're part of the world so they will not even notice you. But me, they want to kill me. I will go when God tells me."

And then in verse 10, it says after His brothers had gone up to the feast, He goes up but in private. Jesus refers to the Feast of Tabernacles as "the feast" or "this feast" in verse 8. Jesus is actually speaking in a disparaging tone. Why? It's because this feast was ultimately about Him. He was tabernacling among His people The feast was a celebration for God's rescue in the past but also a hope for the future. Jesus was the fulfilment of their hope but they didn't recognize it. So, the feast was going on without the guest of honor.

He goes up late to avoid the crowds and the Jewish authorities because in verse 11 it says they were looking for Him. In other words, they were trying to find him to capture Him. They were tired of Him so now was a good time to get rid of Him. But Jesus knows it. He goes, but in private.

The crowds are quietly talking about Jesus. But they don't dare do it in public because the Jewish leaders say, "We don't talk about Jesus. No no no." But notice what the quiet discussion is among the crowds. Some are saying how great Jesus is. He is a great man, they say. Others say, No he is not. He is a deceiver.

Both opinions are wrong. Jesus was not just a good man. He was God in the flesh. He was the Messiah. So they missed it. But the rest were even more wrong. He was no deceiver, but this marks the change in the crowds. They are turning on Jesus bit by bit.

Jesus was being censored 2,000 years ago because of who He was. Today, Jesus is being censored for the same reasons. Social media is pulling down the Bible, Jesus' teaching on the Bible, and truth. But we will not be silent.

So my challenge for you today is to be bold for Christ in your life and words. Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Jesus Christ came so people would have peace with God and leave the darkness. Like any defection, people hate Jesus and those who follow Him. They will say, "We don't talk about Jesus." But we will talk about Him with love, affection, confidence, and loyalty. Because that's how he speaks about us.