



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, November 24, 2022

Scripture: John 8:12-14

TITLE: Safety in the Light

Recently, I had an early morning flight. My goal when leaving is to not wake people up. Well, I had a first on this recent escape.

After exiting the bedroom successfully, I decided to roll my luggage to the hallway where the garage was located. The problem was I tried to do it in the pitch black. Well, you can see where this is going. I ran headfirst into the wall. “Thud.” Thankfully, I fought the wall and I won but it left a decent mark.

Life in the darkness is dangerous, stupid, and completely unnecessary as a Christian. Jesus would say as much in John 8. Listen to the second “I am” statement of Jesus in beginning in John 8:12-14.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.”

Verse 12 reinforces that the previous section is out of place. He’s talking to the religious leaders in the temple treasury. We find this in verse 20.

Jesus tells the religious leaders, “I am the light of the world.” Jesus would make 7 “I am” declarations in the book of John. The first was in John 6 where He said, “I am the bread of life.” Now, He is the light of the world.

He again is making a clear statement about being God. His statement was fitting and reflective of where they were at in the temple. The light of the four candelabras was seen throughout the area. It was like a spotlight.

The Pharisees want no part of it. They say, “You are telling us about yourself. You’re a liar.” But Jesus has the right response. In verse 14, Jesus says, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.”

Jesus has been very clear that He is the way to God the Father. Jesus is God in the flesh. If you want to know the way to Heaven, listen to Jesus. He created heaven. He created the universe. He came from heaven to earth. He knows the way.

Jesus reminds us that truth is objective. It's not relative. It's not subjective. Truth is truth regardless of if a fact checker denies it. Truth is truth regardless of if a politician, pastor, teacher, family member, judge, or anyone else says otherwise. Jesus is truth. He is light. He knows the way. It doesn't matter what anyone else says.

The problem lies in us. When a person rejects Jesus, it's not because Jesus isn't enough. It's not because Jesus hasn't given enough evidence. It's because sinners love the darkness. They love sin. Jesus strips them of sin and the freedom to live in it. He removes us from the darkness and places us in the safety of the light.

So here's my challenge for you today: if you're a Christian, are you living as a child of light? If so, are you pointing people back to Jesus? If you've wandered back into the darkness, come back to the light of Christ. It's dangerous in the dark...both physically and spiritually.

If you're not a Christian, consider coming to the light of the world. Ask yourself if life your way is working out for you. Is it all you wanted it to be or is it dangerous?

Jesus is the light of the world. When you live in His light, you will win the day.