



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Friday, November 25, 2022

Scripture: John 8:15-18

TITLE: Do You Trust the Witnesses

If you wanted to learn a sport, a hobby, or a skill, who would you rather have? Someone who has read about that subject or someone who both knows the subject and has experience doing that activity. Knowledge is great, but experience is an authority that theory can't touch.

Well, Jesus was an authority because He wrote the book on truth and lived by it. Or did He? Let's keep walking with Jesus to discover the answer. This is what John writes in John 8:15-18.

“You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”

Jesus is in a familiar battle with the religious leaders. They were leading from theory but not from practice. Yes, they were practitioners of the law but failed both in practice and in heart. Jesus has just declared that He is the Light of the World.

In verse 14, He said, “Look, I know about God and heaven because I am God. I am from Heaven. I know the way to Heaven.” And so He continues in verse 15 with a painful truth for these religious elites. He says, “you judge according to the flesh.” The Pharisees were notorious for sizing people up by appearance. James 1 reminds us that favoritism is a sin. Judging people by the externals is shallow and ungodly. But the Pharisees held advanced degrees in judging others.

Jesus says, “I judge no one.” What does he mean by that. It's one of two things: First, it's the truth that Jesus does not judge based on the outward appearance. Jesus knew and judged the heart. This is true. But we also know from John 3 that Jesus did not come to judge the world because it already stood condemned. So His time for final judgment was not here.

And then in verses 16-18, He backs up His claims. He says, “I don't judge anyone but if or when I do, it is on the authority of God the Father who sent me. I know the Law. I authored it. You need two witnesses to verify a claim. I am one and God the Father is the other. You have no higher authority than God. I am God. My claim is true. I know a thing or two because I have seen, written, and done a thing or two. I can be trusted.

What about you today, friend? Do you trust Jesus? Is your view of Jesus too small? Is it blurry or incorrect? We can make Jesus into an image that works for us. We discount what He says because either we don't know Him well enough or we don't like what He has to say.

We are almost 9 chapters into the book of John. We've been walking with Jesus for nearly 3 months. Jesus has continued to prove His claims of being God in the flesh and the promised Messiah. He can be trusted.

John wrote this Gospel so that you might believe. Do you believe?