



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Saturday, November 26, 2022

Scripture: John 8:19-20

TITLE: Spend Time with Jesus

Have you ever heard someone say, “Oh yeah, I know that famous person!” We probably have all heard that claim. Heck, I’ve even said it. But the truth is many of us don’t actually know that person. We know of them. We may have met them at an event or snagged a selfie with them, but we don’t really know them.

There are many today who claim to know God and Jesus but they only know of them. But isn’t knowing of God the same as knowing God? Let’s turn back to the Bible for the answer. Jesus answers this question in John 8:19-20.

They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

Jesus has been flipping religion and the religious leaders on their heads. For 8 chapters, Jesus has shocked the contemporaries of His day. He’s said that religion won’t save anyone. Works are useless apart from belief in Him. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus is God in the flesh. He is the bread of life. He is the living water. He is light of the world. But the world loved the darkness. The Pharisees here were in the darkness. They knew of God but did not have a relationship with God. There is a big difference.

Jesus just claimed to be God and to be sent by God from Heaven. Both Jesus and God testify about Him. So the Pharisees ask, “Where is your father?” They may have referred to Joseph or maybe just a general inquiry. But Jesus skips the family tree and says, “Look. You don’t know my father. You just know of Him. You’ve heard about Him. You teach about Him. But you have no clue who He is or who I am. If you knew God, you’d know me.”

Today, many people claim to be spiritual. They claim to believe in God. But as Jesus said in John 14:6, “no one comes to the Father but through me.”

Jesus said in Matthew 11:27 that, “All things have been handed to me... anyone who knows the Father knows the Son.” If you don’t know Jesus, then you don’t know God the Father. This is why the idea that all roads lead to God is blatantly false. This is why all religions do not say the same thing. Jesus is God. Jesus is the way to God. Unless you know Jesus and have a relationship with Him, you don’t really know or love God.

I've been lost many times before by insisting that I knew the way to my destination. But each time I've ended up lost and frustrated. I had to use my GPS to get to my destination. The same is true with God.

So here's my challenge for you today: spend time with Jesus. Yes, you've started off on a good foot. You're in His Word with us today. But don't settle for just five minutes. He wants to spend quality time with you. Invite Him into your day. Talk with Him throughout your day. Think about Him and His Word as you shop at the store, work in your job, coach your kids, or enjoy your favorite hobby. Jesus is there for you and desires to be with you. So spend time with Him today. Know Jesus like He knows you.