



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

Scripture: John 8:25-27

TITLE: Ignorance Is Not Bliss

For the past couple of years, we've seen how scared people are of dying. A virus shook the world and we continue to see the pains of it. People gave up a lot of freedom to experience protection and peace of mind. And I get it. No one likes the idea of being sick or of dying.

But why do we react so strongly to the viruses, recessions, elections, and diagnoses when eternity is a far bigger threat? That's what we want to talk about today.

Let's keep walking with Jesus in John 8. In the previous verses, Jesus has told the religious leaders that they are doomed for hell. They look right past Jesus, the Messiah. Their religion won't save them. So, Jesus presses them and says, "Trust me. I'm God. I know what I'm talking about." And that's where we pick it up in John 8:25-27.

So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.

The religious leaders are not so much perplexed by Jesus' message and claim. They are upset and disgusted with Him. "Who are you?" In other words, "You've got a lot of nerve saying what you're saying."

Jesus quickly dismisses their insult. But they did not understand what He was talking about. He claimed to know God, be God, be from the presence of God, but they frankly didn't care.

You've heard it said that ignorance is bliss. I think this describes the Pharisees and many of us today. We think, "If we're ignorant, if we're wrong – which surely we are not, we will get a free pass. We simply didn't know."

People claim to reject Jesus for many reasons. But I think it can be boiled down to one reason: they love the darkness. Jesus Christ is the light of the world. He came to expose sin and reveal the need for salvation. The world doesn't like this. They love the dark. They love their sin. They love themselves. To be near Jesus means revelation, illumination, and transformation.

A friend told me that he didn't want to become a Christian because it would mean a change. He liked living the dark. Jesus was the light.

But friend, no one gets a free pass. No one can say, "I didn't know enough about Jesus. I didn't know there was a God." Enough revelation has been displayed. Creation declares God's existence. The Bible reveals God's plan. Jesus reveals God in the flesh. People may reject the light but they cannot claim ignorance of it.

Today, you may have understandable concerns about the world. Cancer is real. Viruses are real. Strokes happen. Heart attacks are a killer. But friend, death is not the end. It's a doorway to eternity. The question is do you want peace in the passing and eternity with God? Or would you rather die in the darkness with fear of death and eternity in hell? Jesus offers us peace with God today, tomorrow, and for all time. This is the cure for our greatest sickness. Will you receive the treatment that only Jesus offers?