



**SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Wednesday, November 30, 2022**

**Scripture: John 8:28-30; Psalm 22:1,6-7, 14-18**

**TITLE: All Arrows Point to Jesus**

“I’ll believe it when I see it.” Many of us have heard it, if not said it ourselves.” We don’t want to put our trust in something that seems unbelievable. We wouldn’t put money into an opportunity that seems too good to be true. We wouldn’t want to invest our time into something that would turn out to be a waste of time.

But sometimes it’s not that unbelievable. The issue is we miss what is right before our eyes. In John 8, Jesus again points to clear evidence of who He is. What is this evidence? Let’s turn back to John 8:28-30.

So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

Jesus is having a robust discussion with religious leaders. Their hearts are hard. They love their religion more than God. They prefer performance instead of dependence. They couldn’t see the Messiah because they would only focus on themselves.

Jesus says, “Look, there is coming a day where you will lift up the Son of Man.” He is referring to His crucifixion. There are over 350 prophecies about the Messiah including this one about His death. Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 contain some of the clearest predictions of Jesus’ Crucifixion. Psalm 22:1,6-7, 14-18 says that,

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?... But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads.... I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

These are just some of the prophecies concerning Jesus’ death on the cross. It was so clear who Jesus was but the majority looked right past Him. All arrows pointed to Him but people missed the message. But on the day that Jesus died, many believed. It was clear that Jesus was who He

claimed to be. The resurrection convinced others. But by God's grace, as Jesus was speaking to the leaders this day, some came to believe.

So, how about you? What do you believe about Jesus? Is He some fictional character? Was He some religious teacher and charismatic leader? Or was He the long awaited Messiah?

What you believe about Jesus determines today, tomorrow, and eternity? John wrote this letter so you may know and believe in Jesus? Do you?