



**SERIES: John Believe**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Monday, January 30, 2023**

**Scripture: John 8:42-44**

**TITLE: Whose Side Are You On?**

Whose side are you on? We've all had that moment where we've felt torn. Are we this person's team or that person's team? And yes, it is possible to be on multiple people's teams. But, when it comes to our spiritual life, you can't have a spot on God's team, or Satan's team. You must choose.

In John chapter 8, Jesus addresses a hostile group of religious leaders. They are legalists. In other words, they believed salvation was made possible by works and religion. And Jesus is flipping them on their heads. Their beliefs are being challenged by Jesus. Previously, in verses 39-41, He challenges these Jews. He says, "you can claim that you are children of Abraham. And maybe you are by lineage, but that's not good enough." Jesus goes on to say that if they were spiritual children of Abraham, they wouldn't be out to kill Jesus. And that's where we pick in John 8:42-44.

Jesus said to them, "If God were your father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. "

Our nature is determined by birth, while our birth is determined by paternity. And that's the reality of our spiritual birth and rebirth. By nature, we are children of wrath. We are born God's enemies. We are on Satan's side. Many of us don't realize this, but it's how we begin. But the good news is we don't have to stay there. We can be rescued by Jesus.

But if we're not careful, we can be like those religious leaders who wore uniforms with God's logo on it. But they weren't really on God's side.

What Jesus says is what James would claim. Faith without works is dead. Our beliefs drive our behaviors. Who we really are will be exposed by our words and deeds. So, whose side are you on? Jesus or Satan? Remember, Satan is the father of lies. Back in Genesis 3, he challenged God's word and character. And the rest is history. Many people today think or claim to be on Jesus' side, but they've been fooled by Satan.

It all comes down to belief in Jesus. If you believe in Jesus' sufficiency for your salvation, then you believe the truth. But if you think you have to earn that gift from God, you've missed the point. If you reject what Jesus and the Bible speak as truth, you're not really on God's side.

So, what is it that you believe about Jesus? That reveals whose side you are on. I'm on Jesus' side. How about you?