



SERIES: John Believe
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Monday, February 6, 2023
Scripture: John 9:13-17
TITLE: Lord of the Sabbath

Today when someone disagrees with you, don't be surprised to be called names. When someone doesn't like you, it's common to experience harmful attacks through false accusations and lies. But this behavior isn't new. It's been happening for 2,000 years.

Jesus is unlike anyone who has ever lived. Jesus' life was full of holiness and the miraculous. And yet, many called Him a liar, a rule-breaker, and a sinner.

But who has it right? The culture or the Bible?

Let's go back to the Bible for the answer. This is what John records in John 9:13-17.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now, it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

If you've been walking with us through the book of John, this may sound familiar. It's almost *deja vu*. Jesus has healed someone, and the Pharisees are mad. They're mad not just because Jesus has been fulfilling His ministry. But He's done it on the Sabbath. In John 5, He healed the crippled man only to be rebuked for healing on the Sabbath.

This man who has been blind since birth receives the gift of sight. Jesus performs a miracle. The people questioned if the healing was legit. They wonder if it's just a case of mistaken identity. But the man confesses that he is the blind man. But now he can see.

But then you see what the Pharisees do. They question the man. They say, "This man is a liar. He's not from God. If He was so holy, at least he would keep the Sabbath." But here's the truth: the rules that were broken were not God's rules. They were the Pharisees' extra-biblical rules for the Sabbath. They cared more about religion than God's plan and desire.

Though the Pharisees were convinced, the crowd was not. They began to wonder, "Wait. This Jesus did heal this man. But if He did actually heal him, then how could He be such a sinner? That doesn't seem plausible."

The man clearly agreed because he said, "This man is a prophet." He must have known, like the Pharisees should have conceded, prophets, such as Moses, Elijah, and Elisha did perform miracles. They were godly people doing God's work in God's power.

Jesus is God. Jesus was displaying His deity in His power and His grace. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. He is Lord of all. The Pharisees did not see Jesus clearly. They lied about Him. They called Him names. But those who have been healed by Jesus, we do see Him as He truly is: God in the flesh. He is our loving healer, savior, and Lord.

Today, see Him clearly. Treat Him correctly. And share His testimony freely. When we do, real healing can happen.