



SERIES: John Believe
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Wednesday, February 8, 2023
Scripture: John 9:24-34
TITLE: Cling to Jesus

Being rejected is never fun or desirable. But to be rejected for the truth really stings. It's one thing to be a liar or mischievous. But can you imagine being pushed away for being honest and loyal to God? And to make things even more painful, the rejection comes from those allegedly closest to God.

This didn't actually happen, did it? Yes, it did. Let's pick up our story of the healed blind man in John 9:24-34.

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out."

Why won't these Pharisees leave this poor guy alone? The beggar has been healed by Jesus. They are furious. They've questioned him once. They disliked his answers. They went to manipulate his parents to say what they wanted to hear. That didn't exactly work. So they come back to the man.

They come to him with bias and coercion. But he does not have it. He says, "Look, I don't know Jesus' back story. But what I do know is that I have been blind since birth. But now I can see."

They press him again. But he's getting tired of it. He just wants to look around and celebrate. He says, "I've told you. You have rocks in your ears. What is it with you guys? Do you have some kind of jealous religious man crush?"

But in verse 28 they "revile" him. That means they cursed him out. They began screaming and shouting all sorts of vile things at him. Funny how these religious elites cannot hide their true colors.

But he doesn't retaliate or treat them the same way. He gives them the logical answer: "Look, you say He's a sinner. But I know that God doesn't answer the prayers of sinners. But He will do mighty works through the righteous. I was blind, but because of Jesus, I can see. Therefore, Jesus comes from God."

And the Pharisees quickly changed their minds. Oh, wait. That's not what the text says. They curse the man again and ex-communicate him from the synagogue. This was essentially estrangement from family and friends. It was a big deal.

But for this man, the bigger deal was his healing by Jesus.

Today friend, if you follow Jesus, be prepared for the same treatment this blind man experienced. The question is will we be honest, bold, and loyal to Jesus? Jesus heals. Jesus saves. Jesus is worth it all. Even ex-communication from work, the neighborhood, the culture, and even family.

Jesus Christ will never push you away. Cling to Him today. When you do, you will win the day.