



SERIES – Believe: The Book of John

SPEAKER: Nat Crawford

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Scripture: John 10:22-26

TITLE: The Undeniable Call

Jesus always draws a crowd! Even those who hated him could not resist being drawn to him. We see this in John 10:22-26

“At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.’”

Though clearly aware of the danger He was in, rather than run and hide as a hireling would want to do, the shepherd, the good one, stood boldly in the face of His haters. As only a Good Shepherd would do, He stayed close to His flock. In fact, as this narrative unfolds, we will quickly discover that the great threat to the sheep was not predatory animals but rather the very ones appointed to be their protective shepherds. Regrettably the high priests, scribes, Pharisees and Sanhedrin turned out to be nothing other than a band of sly thieves, violent robbers and spineless hirelings. So in their hateful looming shadow of increasing hostility, the Good Shepherd walked boldly.

Increasingly the people were coming to believe that this carpenter from Galilee was actually the fulfillment of the long-awaited promises of a coming Messiah. He had turned ceremonial water into the finest of wines. He had healed from a distance the dying son of a well-known synagogue ruler. A lame man with four caring friends had, at Jesus’ command, stood and walked home without a minute of physical therapy. A hungry crowd of over 5,000 men plus wives and kids ate freely from a biscuits and fish lunch that Jesus miraculously multiplied.

That had been followed by a walk on the waves and the calming of a raging storm simply by the sound of His command. And just that day a well-known blind neighbor whose eyes had never seen a sunrise was suddenly given 20/20 vision, both physically and spiritually. Not many days from now, Jesus would call from the grave the four-day deceased brother of Martha and Mary.

His powerful teaching had repeatedly arrested the attention of the masses. And even more recently the security forces of the Sanhedrin had returned empty handed because they found his speaking to be totally irresistible. By both Word and Works he was proving over and over that he was the sent one from God!

When a heart is determined to reject obvious truth, the best defense is to pursue a diversionary discussion. And so we see hear: “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly!” Unwilling to go down that fruitless rabbit hole, Jesus simply responded, “I told you, and you do not believe.” Since the man born blind discovered that believing is seeing and believing is hearing, Jesus’ answer cuts straight to the heart of the matter. They had over 360 prophecies being fulfilled right before their very eyes day after day. So it was neither deficiency of information nor absence of demonstration that hindered their belief. Jesus told John the Baptist’s messengers, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.”—Matthew 11:5

No...not for deficiency of information nor an absence of demonstration did they disbelieve. Jesus goes out before and His own sheep follow Him, for they know His voice. Their diversionary tactic did not veil the real issue of the false shepherds of the Jews. Jesus put it simply: “You do not believe because you are not among my sheep!”—John 10:26

But, like David, those who do believe can boldly say, “The Lord is my shepherd...no wants!”