



**SERIES: John Believe**  
**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**  
**Friday, March 3, 2023**  
**Scripture: John 12:9-11**  
**TITLE: Will Jesus Convince You?**

Why do you believe in Jesus? Yes, I know it's the Spirit who does the convicting of the heart. It is His call that triggers our response. But what is it that made you believe? Or maybe you don't believe in Jesus. Why?

Today, no one is truly neutral about Jesus. They either trust Him or they do not. They believe what the Bible says or they do not. There is really no in between. Let's turn back to the Bible to see what was driving people's belief and disbelief in Jesus.

This is what John writes in John 12:9-11.

When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

So, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. The Jewish leaders are not happy about it. In fact, the high priest Caiaphas has declared it's better that one man die—meaning Jesus—so the nation might continue as is.

Judas is mad at Mary because she's anointed Jesus with expensive perfume. By using the perfume, Judas, would be able to sell it and steal the proceeds. Jesus just can't get a break.

Well, here, the Jews, not the religious leaders but everyday Jewish people, heard about the raising of Lazarus from the dead. They want to see Lazarus for themselves. And who can blame them. So it was a two-for-one deal. They can see Jesus and Lazarus. Was Jesus legit? Was the resurrection true?

Well, the chief priests have their ear to the ground and rewrite Caiaphas' notion that better than just one man dying, let's kill two people. Why? Because if they get rid of the evidence and the culprit, this movement will go away. The nation and power will continue.

But the people come to see Lazarus and Jesus. The result is some believe.

Fascinating how people can see the same thing but walk away with different conclusions. We see it in politics, pandemics, economic trends, and even in religion. Some people see Jesus and His power and believe. Others see it and turn away with hatred.

Today is no different. People see Jesus and His power and believe. They read the Bible and consider the evidence and believe. While the majority turn their backs on the Bible, God, Jesus, and the free gift of salvation. Some hate Jesus. Some want to erase Him and His message.

But that will never work just like it didn't work in Jesus' day. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the French skeptic Voltaire stated in 100 years from his time Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history. Voltaire's own printing press was used to print copies of the Bible and his home in France would belong to the Geneva Bible Society where Bibles were produced and distributed.

Friends, what will you do with Jesus? Will you believe in Him or reject Him? Why? Be honest and put it in the comments below.

For me the evidence is far too great to deny Jesus. How about you?