



SERIES: John Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Scripture: John 12:20-24

TITLE: No One is Beyond Hope

"There is no chance of them following Jesus." Have you ever thought that? I have more times than I care to admit. So who comes to mind? Let's face it. There are those people or people groups who seem too far from God to ever become Christian. But God's salvation is open to everyone. And so it doesn't matter the background, skin color, economic background, or religious or non-religious heritage; anyone can come to Jesus.

We will see such a picture in John 12:20-24.

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

One of the challenges for the Jewish people and the religious leaders was that salvation was for everyone. You did not have to be a Jew to experience salvation. You didn't have to play the game of religion to get to God. In reality, religion was a problem. It was a roadblock to God.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. That's why in verses 20-21, we need to understand from the Jewish people's perspective. Gentiles or Greeks were the least likely to get saved. They weren't God's chosen people. But these Greeks wanted to see Jesus. They came to Jerusalem to worship. They were converts at some level. They want to see Jesus.

We don't know if they make it to Jesus or not. But Andrew and Philip tell Jesus these Greeks are looking for him. His response? John 12:23-24

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

What an odd response. What's Jesus really saying? He's revealing that the time is here. He's been working on His earthly ministry. He's been casting the message and vision of the Kingdom of God. He's been proving His deity and Messiahship.

And so he says, "Now is the time. The son of man must be glorified." This is about Daniel 7:13, 14. It says,

"One like a Son of Man was coming...And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom."

The time has come for Jesus to die so people might have eternal life. That's what Jesus is talking about. "The grain of wheat must die to bear much fruit." Through Jesus' death, there is forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

No death and resurrection mean no peace with God and no eternal life. Jesus must die and rise again.

This gift of salvation is for everyone: young and old, rich and poor, black and white, Jewish, pagan, atheist, agnostic, Buddhist, Hindu, Mormon, Muslim, and everything in between. He destroys religion and creates a pathway to God.

No one is hopeless. No one is outside the possibility of peace with God. The question is will you bring Jesus to them? They need His good news. So take it to them and watch God do the work.