



**SERIES: John Believe**  
**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**  
**Wednesday, March 8, 2023**  
**Scripture: John 12:25-26**  
**TITLE: The Cost of Salvation**

Is salvation really free, or can you buy it? Is forgiveness of sins really a gift, or is it something you actually have to earn? According to the Bible, salvation is a free gift. It truly is. And it's the most expensive give you'll ever receive. Jesus said as much in John 12:25-26. Jesus said,

"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him."

There it is. "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" Many of us, myself included, love this world. And at a certain level, we should. It is God's creation. God declared it good. And then sin destroyed it. There is still good in the world. There is still happiness and joy available. We can enjoy the blessings of God's grace around us. The problem is when it distracts us from worshipping and loving God fully.

The problem is we want to stay here more than we want to be with Jesus. Disney World isn't the most magical place on earth. Being close to God is. Your most incredible memory with a child, spouse, or friend won't hold a candle to the glorious eternity before us.

John wrote in 1 John 2:15,

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

It's easy to love the one you are with. That's true for a person, a place, a thing, or everything around you. But Jesus Christ deserves and demands first place in your life.

Jesus continually warned those who would follow him would come at a cost.

Jesus said in Matthew 10:37-39,

"Whoever loves Father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

So is salvation really free? Yes. In John 3:16, Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me shall not perish but have eternal life." Paul wrote in Ephesians 2 that salvation comes by grace alone

through faith alone. It's a gift. And it comes with a life of purpose, adventure, and the cost of following Jesus wherever He leads.

In these two verses, Jesus provides us two blessings for those who love and serve Him: He says where I am, there will my servant be also. We will be by Jesus and surrounded by His followers. Second, when we serve Him, God the Father will honor Him.

My challenge for you today is to renew your vow to follow Jesus. His gift of eternal life is priceless that came at a high price to Jesus. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die." But die to what? Himself, to sin, and death. What a great trade. So renew your vow to God. When you will win today.