



**SERIES: John Believe**  
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**Tuesday, March 14, 2023**  
**Scripture: John 12:44-46**  
**TITLE: Believe in the Light**

Welcome to Win the Day. I'm Nate, your coach, filling in for Pastor Nat and today we'll talk about believing in The Light.

We are continuing in the Gospel of John 12:44-46, which reads:

*And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."*

It's Passion Week and Jesus, who described Himself as the Light of the World, had just called the crowds to believe in the light and become sons of light instead of remaining in darkness. However, the people wouldn't believe in Him, as was prophesied by Isaiah. And so, Jesus hid Himself from the crowds.

Here, John says Jesus cried out. Perhaps this was another time later that week or something Jesus had said before He hid Himself from the crowds, but He cried out with a message.

Jesus spoke boldly. He knew the plan that the Father had for Him; that on Friday He would be arrested, put to shame and crucified for the sins of the people, but Jesus set His face like a flint (Isaiah 50:7). He was committed to obeying God and following through. Jesus didn't fear the crowds but had the courage to proclaim His Gospel message. He had the courage to preach the Word of God publicly, not being ashamed of it.

What Jesus preaches here is the same message He has always been preaching. He calls for the people to turn from sin and believe in Him for salvation. Specifically, Jesus is again connecting Himself to the Father who sent Him. This is a point John emphasizes over and over again in his Gospel.

From the start of John's Gospel, he says the Word, which is Jesus, was there in the very beginning with God and the Word was God (John 1:1). Jesus attests that He was sent by the Father and He does God's will (John 6:38), even boldly stating that He and the Father are one (John 10:30). Lastly, Jesus exclusively claims He alone is the way, the truth, and the life, no one can come to God except through Him (John 14:6). Therefore, of course that means that believing and seeing Jesus is the same thing as believing and seeing God.

These are powerfully important claims. What does this mean then? Well for starters it means the opposite is also true. If you don't believe in Jesus, if you don't see Him as the light of the World,

the holy Son of God, the Savior, then in fact you don't believe or see God. Loving Jesus is loving God, and loving God is loving Jesus. Believing Jesus is believing God and believing God is believing Jesus. Do you understand what is being said?

God alone is holy, and cannot lie. He is the source and epitome of all truth. As C.S. Lewis famously put it, when Jesus claims to be God it can only mean one of three things. Either Jesus is a lunatic—an insane man who doesn't know what He is saying. Or, Jesus is a liar—an evil man trying to deceive people. Or, Jesus is Lord, and He's telling the truth, with many miracles to prove it!

Neither a liar nor a lunatic can be seen as a good, moral teacher. Yet we have millions of people in this world who think exactly that about Jesus. Worse yet, millions of people who also claim to believe and see God, but who deny Jesus as the Son of God. Muslims, Jews, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Rastas, Sikhs, progressive Christians all who reject or redefine Jesus into who they want Him to be. What does God say? He says that if you don't believe Jesus as He's revealed in the Word of God, then you don't believe God. You're lost in the dark.

If that's you, then please reconsider this. If this saying is scratching at your heart and mind then believe me when I say that's God's Spirit trying to get at you. Don't ignore it. There is hope, for Jesus Christ came into the world as light so that those of us who believe Him will no longer remain in darkness.

What darkness afflicts you? Fear of death? Anxiety about the future? Do you lie compulsively? Is your heart burdened with jealousy of another person? Are you ruled by your anger? Do you steal from others? Are you infatuated with sexual desires and behavior? What false gods do you pray to? Do you love money and crave more at any expense? Do you hate yourself and wallow in despair? Are you fighting with your parents and disobeying them? Are you obsessed with your looks? Are you feeling lost with no way out?

God knows the darkness that afflicts you. He knows. And your sin will cost you your very life. In the darkness you're lost with no way to get out. But God made a way out of the darkness and into the light only through Jesus Christ. All these sins and more God can deliver you from! All you have to do is believe in the light, in Jesus, and you will no longer stay in darkness.