



SERIES: John Believe
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Saturday, April 1, 2023
Scripture: John 14:22-26
TITLE: Don't Be Fooled

Back in the 80s and 90s, Magic Eye pictures were popular. They are these pictures that when you look at them, they are very busy and tell no story. But once you understand that there is a trick to seeing them, the hidden image is visible.

Today, the world looks at Jesus and His Word the same way. They can see Jesus but can't make sense of Him. They encounter His Word but don't view it as truth. They see it as fiction and irrelevant. But for the believer they have a helper so they can see Jesus clearly. They have a helper to believe and live the truth.

Without the Helper, people are fooled. Don't believe me? Listen to Jesus in John 14:22-26.

Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

Jesus has informed the disciples that He is going away and will send the Helper for them. They will do things far greater than Jesus did in His earthly ministry. How is this possible? The Gospel will be spread for ages to come, and souls will be saved. That's how.

And then here in verse 22, Judas, son of James, says, "This is really confusing. How will you be here for us but not for the world?"

Again and for the third time in this section, Jesus connects our obedience to our love for Him. When we know Jesus, we will love Him. When we love Him, we will follow Him. He will say it negatively in verse 24. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. Our love and obedience are evidence of our salvation.

And then, in verse 26, Jesus says, "the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

The Spirit is our Helper to know the truth, live the truth, and speak the truth. When we feel led away from what the Bible teaches, it's not the Spirit. We are being fooled. We are looking at the picture without the right perspective.

This is why the world does not see or trust Jesus or the Word. You must have the Spirit to see Him and believe His Word.

So today, don't be fooled. Ask the Spirit daily for help as you look into God's Word. Ask the Spirit for the strength to follow Jesus. Ask the Spirit for discernment to know the truth.

When we listen to the Helper, we will win the day.