

Sermon Study Guide – March 5th, 2023

Today's Focus: "The Needs of the Many and the Needs of the Few"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ How does the quote about “the needs of the many” and “the needs of the few” usually go?
- ◆ What needs are met by our faith? Do all people see it as such? Do we always treat it as such?

2) Today's Message: John 3:1-16 (*see bulletin for full text*)

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” ⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” ⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

Answer the following questions as you follow the sermon...

1. How was Nicodemus one of the “few”, whose needs did not seem as pressing?
2. In the end, how did Nicodemus differ from the “many” in the crowds who first followed Jesus?
3. What does it mean that we must be “reborn”? Yet, how do people prefer an easier path that “goes back to their (first) birth”?
4. Because Jesus cared so much about the “many”, what did it lead him to do for *each* of the few?
5. How does Jesus expend his time and effort on us? What does it teach us about how to treat the “Nicodemuses” in our lives?
6. “The gospel offers a foreign experience to all.” Explain that statement from the end of the sermon.

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: *review* Gen. 12:1-8, Rom. 4:1-5,13-17 **Thursday:** John 1

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 1

Friday: *read/review* John 3

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 2

Saturday: John 7:45-52, 19:38-42