



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Main Point:

God's love is proved, not by how we feel about it, but by the giving of his unique Son to become, and overcome, our curse. Only those who look to Christ in simple, desperate faith experience the transformative, life-giving work of grace.

Discussion Questions:

How is God's grace displayed in Jesus' confrontation with Nicodemus?

Do you have any questions that keep you from receiving Jesus?
Where is there unbelief?

Are you hoping in anything other than the gracious work of God to bring about transformation in your life? Where do you need God's grace to work?

How do the shame and suffering of Jesus transform our understand of glory?

Do you believe that God delights to give you life in Christ? Do you ever feel as if God give begrudgingly or reluctantly? If so, why do you thing that is?

Are there any areas of your life that you are trying to keep hidden?
What might need exposed?

Why is it true freedom to live in the light rather than hiding in darkness? Where have you experienced this in your life?

Connect with us online:
www.clearwatercommunity.org

Date: February 2, 2020

Passage: Passage: John 3:1-21

Theme: The Conditions of God's Kingdom"

3:1-12 // The glory and grace of God confront unbelief

vv. 1-2 – Nicodemus confronts Jesus

v. 4 – “How can a man be born when he is old?...”

v. 9 – “How can these things be?”

v. 11 – “...but you do not receive our testimony.”

3:3-8 // The glory and grace of God transform

vv. 3-4 – “you must be born again” = “from above”

vv.5-7 – “you must be born of water and spirit” = cleansed and made alive by God

v. 8 – the transformative work of God in the lives of people is mysterious, yet undeniable

the condition for entering God's kingdom is one we cannot meet apart from divine grace

3:14-15 // The glory and grace of God are manifest through shame and suffering

only Jesus can fulfill this as the unique Son of God

Jesus condescends to take our shame (Philippians 2:1-10)

Jesus will be glorified through his suffering (Isaiah 53; Colossians 2; Hebrews 12:2)

He must be lifted up on the cross (Numbers 21:4-9)

3:16-18 // The glory and grace of God save and give life

Jesus did not come to condemn – the world was condemned already because of lawlessness

The Law brought condemnation

God's love for the world is proved by the giving of Jesus

3:19-20 // The glory and grace of God expose darkness

Light exposes dark; purity exposes wickedness – this is an act of divine grace

Our response to the Light proves the state of our heart

3:21 // The glory and grace of God bring freedom

Only those who live in the light are truly free

This is the evidence of the grace of God at work