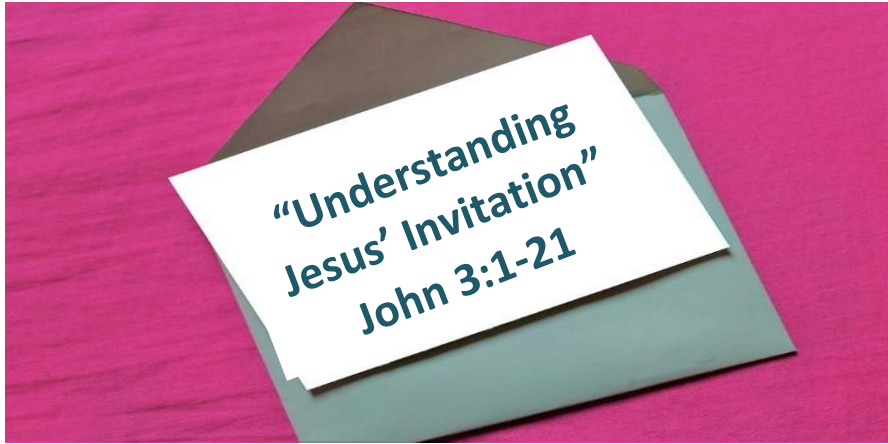


Sunday, September 27, 2020

Fall Series: "Nobody but Jesus"- Studies in John's Good News about Jesus



"What was the most memorable invitation you ever received? Why was it important to you?"

From miracles to now teachings. Jesus having validated who he is with the miracle at the wedding now enters into his first teaching session. What has Jesus done that has captured your attention?

In John 3:2 Nicodemus wants to have a "safe" conversation with Jesus, but Jesus is more direct. In what way do I try to avoid a direct message from Jesus?

John 3:3- "Born again." How do I understand what Jesus means with this phrase? How is that different than how Jesus uses it?

John 10:10 Jesus says he has come to give us "life abundantly." How do I see that in my life?

John 3:5 says, "Flesh gives birth to flesh. Spirit to spirit." What balance do I see in my role in conversion vs. what God does?

Read John 3:16 with fresh eyes. How does God's express motivation of love for us, influence my motivation to share with others?

"PRAY FOR ONE"- For whom does God place on my heart to pray for an intentional opportunity to intentionally share the good news of Jesus? Will I commit to pray along those lines between now and the end of the year? Who will pray with me?

Next Week: "Special Guest Speaker – Frank Reynolds"

*****SEE BELOW FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY QUESTIONS*****

JOHN 3

The Pharisees were a prominent conservative branch of Judaism whose followers upheld the Jewish law to the extreme. While they were motivated to maintain the purity of their faith, much of Phariseism had degenerated into an outward obedience to religious minutiae rather than an act of the heart. The word Pharisee means "to separate." By practicing their interpretation of the Jewish law, someone would be pure towards God by separating from the world's contamination. The Pharisees' sizable following made them a powerful religious and political group in Palestine, with members sitting on the influential ruling Council.

Read John 3:1-15.

- Let's develop a brief biography of Nicodemus. Who was he? What was his understanding of Jesus? What do the circumstances of his visit reveal about him?
- What was Nicodemus' question?
- How would you describe Nicodemus' understanding of spirituality?
- How did Jesus correct Nicodemus' understanding?
- Why do you think Jesus insisted that one must be "born all over again" to enter God's Kingdom?
- What do you think Jesus means by being "born again"?
- How do you feel about this idea of being born again?
- How would a born-again life look different from other lives?
- Would you consider yourself to be born again in the way that Jesus describes it?

Read John 3:16-21.

- What do you think it means that God loves the world?
- How do you think people experience God's love today?
- Why do you think the author makes belief in Jesus essential for obtaining eternal life?
- How would you describe the belief needed for eternal life?
- What happens when one places their belief in Jesus Christ?
- How do you think people today love darkness and not light?
- What could change a person from loving darkness to loving light?
- What have you learned about belief from this section? How could it impact your life?

Read John 3:22-36.

The story now returns to John the Baptist. A dispute has emerged between John's disciples and a Jewish inquirer.

- What appears to be the nature of this dispute in verses 25-26?
- How does John the Baptist address the question?
- John the Baptist draws some distinctives between himself and Jesus in verses 31-35. What is he saying about how Jesus is different from himself?
- John seems to be building a case for Jesus' authority. He says that Jesus speaks the words of God and everything has been placed in His hands. What do you think it means for Jesus to have everything placed in his hands?
- How do you feel about Jesus' authority?
- John the Baptist makes a black and white statement in verse 36. What do you think it means for people to reject the Son?
- Why does rejecting the Son cause a person to forfeit eternal life?
- How do you feel about John's claim regarding one's eternal destiny and their acceptance of Jesus?
- What do you think it means for God's wrath to remain on a person (verse 36)?
- How can a loving God place His wrath upon people?
- Do you think this statement about God's wrath is still true today? Why or why not?