

Share The Gospel

Licking Assembly of God
Last Sermon: 10/13/19
John 2:23-3:21 CSB

Note: Be sure to follow along on the YouVersion Bible App!

Read John 2:23-3:21

Introduction

There's a lot going on in this passage of Scripture. Right before this passage, we see that Jesus has just cleansed the temple of the money changers during the Passover Festival.

That's not the only thing Jesus did. As we just read at the end of chapter 2, Jesus did many signs and wonders while He was there and people began to believe in Him as the Messiah.

This helps us to understand why Nicodemus came to Jesus in the first place. Nicodemus, being a high ranking Pharisee, was almost certainly at the Passover Festival. He came to Jesus because he saw the signs and wonders that Jesus was performing, and wanted to know more about who this man was.

This brings me to my first point.

1. When We Share The Gospel, We Share The Story

- As believers in Christ, we all have a story and we are called to share that story.
- Have you ever asked yourself why Jesus went around healing the blind, making the lame walk, and raising the dead to life?
 - o Jesus performed these miracles as a testimony of who He is. People saw the authority and power that Jesus, the true Son of God had.
 - o And these signs and wonders that Jesus performed would bring people to Him so He could then share the truth about Himself with them.
- Just like Jesus performed miracles as a testimony of who He is, the Holy Spirit performs miracles in our lives today as a testimony of who Jesus is.
 - o When Jesus heals your body, you are to use that miracle as a testimony of who Jesus really is!
 - o When He delivers you from a tragedy or saves you from an addiction, you are to use that miracle as a testimony of who Jesus really is!
- John 14:13-14 says, ¹³“Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that **the Father may be glorified in the Son.** ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

- Whatever miracles you have been longing and waiting for God to do in your life, He will do it if you ask and if He gets glorified through it.
- There is no greater way to glorify God than by sharing the story of what He has done in your life!
- If you want to see more miracles take place in your life and in this church, you must share the stories of what Jesus has already done for you!
 - When you share your story of Jesus doing the supernatural in your life, it will draw others in who have not yet received Christ as their savior.
 - However, sharing the gospel does not stop at sharing your story. We must also share the truth.

2. When We Share The Gospel, We Share The Truth

- Nicodemus came to Jesus at night (in the darkness).
 - Even though Nicodemus was living in darkness, He came to Jesus seeking to understand more about the miracles Jesus had performed.
 - Nicodemus was willing to hear from Jesus, Jesus had to be willing to speak to Nicodemus even in the darkness.
 - The darkness in terms of the world
 - The darkness in terms of the time of day
- We must be willing to share the truth of the gospel with people in the midst of their darkness.
 - We cannot expect people to get 'cleaned up' and 'live right' before we share the message of Christ with them.
 - We must meet people where they are and shine the light of Jesus in the darkness.
- This does not mean that we sugar coat the gospel, that's not what Jesus did.
 - In fact, Jesus responds in a rather unique way when he helps Nicodemus understand the truth of the gospel.
- The way Jesus responds to Nicodemus is a format that John uses several times throughout his gospel.
 - Someone comes to Jesus with a question. (3:1-2)
 - Jesus gives an ambiguous one-line answer (3:3)
 - The person misunderstands, or doesn't understand at all (3:4)
 - Jesus gives a lengthier reply that is even more confusing as the first (3:5-8)
 - The person longs to know what Jesus is talking about (3:9)
 - Jesus finally explains everything in a simplistic way for them to understand (3:10-21)
- When you share the truth of the gospel with others, you may have to lead them in their understanding.
 - We often get overwhelmed when someone asks us questions about our faith or wants to know more about Jesus.

- We either give an ambiguous answer and never give an explanation of what we are saying, or, we jump straight into really complicated theology that overloads the person we are talking to.
- Sharing the truth of the gospel is more than giving someone a theology lesson.
 - It is leading someone to the realization that they are living in a dead and sinful life and need the saving grace and power of Jesus Christ to make them a new creation.
 - This is exactly what Jesus did with Nicodemus.
 - Jesus said that the only way to have eternal life is to be born again in the Spirit. You spirit is born again when you put your faith, hope, and trust in the Son of God who took on your sin and defeated death in order for you to have everlasting freedom!
 - This realization will come to a person when we treat them with grace, compassion, and friendship; not judgment, condemnation.

3. When We Share The Gospel, We Share The Love

- After Jesus explained to Nicodemus the truth of what it means to be born again, He then reveals the love that God displayed in order for Nicodemus' salvation to happen.
 - John 3:16, "For God loved the world in this way: that He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life."
 - Nicodemus' originally came to Jesus to learn more about the signs and wonders he had been doing.
 - Jesus immediately shares the truth and says he must be born again, not just born of the flesh, but born spiritually.
 - Then, Jesus tells Nicodemus how he can accomplish this: by believing in the one who God sent.
- Everything that Nicodemus has been searching for has already been given to Him through the love of God.
 - All Nicodemus has to do now is believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God (the one who descended from heaven) and live by the truth that comes from Him.
- The central message of the gospel is that you can never earn salvation. It is given to you freely because of the love that God has for you.
 - When we share the love that Christ brings, we personalize the gospel.
 - This one verse internalizes the love of God.
 - Jesus died for YOU.
- Jesus makes it very clear that there is no condemnation for you.
 - When there is condemnation, you are saying that someone has done wrong, they are guilty, they are to blame, and there is nothing that can be done to make it right.
 - Condemnation is not just; it does not bring restoration.
 - When there is conviction, you are saying yes, you have done wrong, yes you are guilty, but there is still a chance of restoration.

- You can still make it right because Jesus Christ paid the penalty and took the punishment.
- The devil brings condemnation, the Holy Spirit brings conviction, but we are called to bring compassion.
 - Compassion says I don't care if you have done wrong or done right, let me come alongside you and help you out.
 - Biblical compassion is not pity, it is genuine love for a neighbor.

Close/Altar Call

- This morning, as the deacons come forward, no matter where you are at in your relationship with Jesus, He is wanting to draw you closer to Him.
- You may be here today and you have heard the stories of what Jesus has done.
 - You've heard the stories in the bible.
 - You've heard the stories followers of Jesus have told you.
- Despite hearing the stories, the truth of the gospel, that you are a sinner in need of a savior, has not been shared to you.
 - Or, even worse, you have heard the truth of the gospel, but it was shared to you out of condemnation and not compassion.
 - The love of God was not there, and instead there was judgment.
 - This morning, I want you to know that Jesus did not die on a cross to judge you, but because He loves you.
 - Right now, I truly believe that the Holy Spirit, maybe for the first time in your life, is revealing His overwhelming, never-ending love to you.
 - Don't run from it, don't hide from Him.
 - If this is you, and you want to accept Christ as your savior, I want you to come forward and we would love to pray with you.
- For everyone else, this morning, God is calling you to radically share the gospel with the people He has placed in your life that do not know Him.
 - God is calling you to share the story of how you came to know who Christ is.
 - God is calling you to share the truth into your coworkers life when they come to you in distress and need help.
 - Most importantly, God is calling you to share the love of Christ with your neighbor like you never have before.
- If you are ready to make a deeper commitment to Jesus Christ, to share the gospel like you never have before, will you stand where you are at, lift your hands, and pray with me as we commit ourselves to sharing the gospel with others.