

Series: The Gospel You Didn't Expect

Message: Jesus Loves Legalists

Texts: Psalm 119:9-16; Ezekiel 36:25-28; Matthew 22:34-40; 7:29; Mark 1:21-22; John 3:1-21

Scripture Reading: John 3:1-21 **Call to Worship:** Psalm 119:9-16

Date: February 21, 2021

Introduction: The Problem with Legalism

I. Jesus and The Pharisee (John 3:1-21; Matthew 22:34-40)

- Nicodemus was both a member of the _____ and a Pharisee (v. 1)
- Nicodemus knew the _____ and held it in very high regard (v. 1)
- Nicodemus recognizes Jesus' teaching _____ (v. 2; Matthew 7:29; Mark 1:21-22)
- Jesus is unaffected by Nicodemus' position or expertise, and goes right for his _____ (v. 3)
- Jesus responds to Nicodemus' confusion by making things _____ (vv. 5-8; Ezekiel 36:25-28)
- Jesus shows Nicodemus that his massive knowledge of the Law in and of itself is not _____ (vv. 9-13)
 1. Nicodemus knows the scriptures but does not understand God's _____ (v. 10)
 2. Nicodemus is not recognizing his own _____ (v. 13)
- Jesus uses the Old Testament _____ to help Nicodemus (v. 14)
- Jesus explains God's _____ (v. 16)
- Jesus clarifies God's heart on _____ (v. 17-19)
- Jesus shows Nicodemus the _____ to what he has been seeking all along (v. 20)
- Jesus has another famous encounter with an _____ in the Law (Matthew 22:34-40)

II. The Church and Legalists

- Who are the "_____" in our lives today?
- Jesus was clearly not swayed by a person's _____ or position (John 3:10)
- Jesus gives us this pattern to follow:
 1. We are unswayed by their expertise, position or what they _____ of us (John 3:3)
 2. We make things plain -- even _____ (John 3:5-8; Ezekiel 36:22-28)
 3. We prayerfully show them where their expertise and their relationship with Jesus don't _____ (John 3:9-13)
 4. We use the _____ to expose their condition (John 3:14; Matthew 22:37-40)
 5. We speak to misplaced _____ (John 3:17-19)
 6. When ready, we lead them into an _____ with King Jesus (John 3:20)

Conclusion: What Will You Do Next?



Love God Extravagantly ~ Love People with Humility ~ Mentor Others to do the Same

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