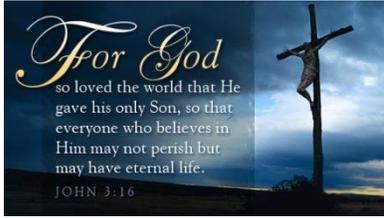


Sunday, April 29, 2018 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Sermon: The Visitor

Read John 3:1-21



The most famous verse in the Bible is, “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.” This is what Jesus said to Nicodemus when he came to see Jesus.



Nicodemus was a member of the Pharisees. There were two groups that composed the Sanhedrin, ruling body of the Jews. There were the Pharisees and the Sadducees. It was probably because Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin that Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. He did not want others to know that he had gone to see Jesus. Nicodemus came ready to learn from Jesus. He called Jesus “rabbi” which is a title of respect. He spoke of the miracles that Jesus had performed and said that because of those he knew Jesus was of God.



Jesus told Nicodemus that you cannot see the Kingdom of God unless you have been born again. We are used to hearing this phrase, but it confused Nicodemus. He thought that it meant that you had to be physically born again. Jesus was telling him that we have to be born spiritually as well as physically. We need the Holy Spirit to give birth to our spirit. Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit is like the wind. We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we can see how He has worked in our lives.



Jesus uses examples from our lives to teach us about the Kingdom of God. Jesus has come from God. He is the only One who really knows about God. He wants us to know how to be a part of the Kingdom. In the Old Testament we read of a time that the people of Israel were tired of walking in the wilderness. They complained about God and Moses. There were poisonous snakes that started biting the people. God told Moses to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole. Anyone who looked at the bronze serpent would not die. It does not make sense that looking at a bronze serpent would heal someone who was bitten by a snake, but it happened. It does not make sense that Jesus could come and die for our sins and that by trusting in Him we are forgiven, but it is true. By believing in Jesus we have eternal life.



God proved His love for us when He sent Jesus. Jesus, the one and only Son of God came into the world knowing that He would die for us. Jesus did not come to judge us, but to forgive us. The problem is if we do not believe in Jesus we are already judged and condemned. Jesus is the way to life and if we do not believe in Him we cannot have eternal life. The choice is up to us.