

## PERMISSION GRANTED: To Process Uncertainty

Pastor Brandon Zieske

Text: John 3:1-21

We can become more concerned with what we can do, instead of what He can do.

Jesus loves to confront our religious paradigms and shake us up.

### John wrote this Gospel so that we may believe.

John 20:31; John 21:24-25

Jesus will more often than not, answer the questions that are on our heart, than the ones that come out of our mouth.

Our religious paradigms will not achieve what we hope they will.

LOOK AND LIVE!

## Food for Thought for the week of April 17, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Read John 3:1-21

2. Like Nicodemus, how have you felt "in the dark" over what is true, who Jesus really is, how to know God, or how to live by faith?

3. Jesus acknowledged Nicodemus as a teacher, highly educated as a Pharisee, who held ruling authority in the Jewish system. Nicodemus recognized Jesus as a teacher who came from God because of the miraculous signs he performed. What kinds of teaching are revealed by each? In our day, is it the same or different?

4. Jesus was emphatic that one must be born again (born from above) to see God's kingdom. This confused Nicodemus. How would you answer?

- How could this be? (John 1:12-13)
- Why is it essential to be born again? (Psalm 51:5; Eph. 2:1; Rom. 3:23; Romans 5:12)
- What must one do? (Romans 10:9-10; 1 John 1:9)
- What happens as a result? (2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 3:9)

5. Is believing Jesus is who he says he is, a gift from God through promptings of the Holy Spirit or is your belief a decision? Is it either/or; or is it both? Explain your answer. (1 Peter 1:3; John 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-9)

6. John 3:16 states that it was God's love that caused him to send his Son into the world. Since God's love for the world is so great, how do you explain a verdict and judgment for unbelief? (19-21)

7. Jesus indirectly points to himself as the source of eternal life - the Son of Man lifted up and the Light come into the world. What are some other defining names Jesus directly applies to himself? (John 6:35; 6:48; John 8:7; 8:12; 8:58; John 10:11; John 11:25; John 14:6; John 15:1)

8. Permission is granted to struggle to distinguish between being religious and being born again, but what condition is a person in who never takes the action to believe in Jesus? (vs. 18) What "leap of faith" have you taken or supported someone else to take?