

Fall Semester 2017 – Devotion #6 – John 3:5-6

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Dear Friends & Family of St. John's and True North

The murders and bodily harm happening in Las Vegas have been a mainstay on the news. A lingering question left unanswered is why? What would cause someone to open fire on a crowd of people gathered for a good time? It isn't just Las Vegas. Why would someone shoot another person? Why would an individual carry out destruction because an injustice occurred? Why would someone belittle another because of their gender or race? Opinions are expressed. It's because the individuals a racist. It's because the individual is an extremist. It's because the individual wants their actions to be heard. The one answer that is rarely used is the word sin. Hatred of someone else is a sin. Destruction of another's property is a sin. Bringing bodily harm to another is a sin. Sin comes from sinners. Our world is full of sinners.

That's why Jesus came. Jesus in the reading above made the point of what all human beings are by nature. We're sinful. We're in need of a Savior. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. Through Baptism, the Holy Spirit brings forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Nicodemus struggled with that. He also struggled with the need for Jesus. Nicodemus was part of the Pharisees. They thought their obedience to their laws would save them. They didn't like what Jesus taught. Yet for Nicodemus he would hear what he needed. Jesus addressed him as a sinner. Jesus announced to him who his Savior was. Later in life Nicodemus would take Jesus body down from the cross and place him in a tomb.

Our world, just like Nicodemus, needs Jesus. Jesus is the one who addresses our world. He does that through his Word. The government may make laws that make evil actions like the one in Las Vegas harder to repeat. But those laws won't make sin disappear. Yes, destruction or belittlement may change current actions in our society. But that change in action won't make sin disappear. That change won't direct people to Jesus. God places us here. God puts us here to point out the cause of our problems – sin. And God puts us here to point to his solution – Jesus. Those people struggling because of the destruction of life cause in Las Vegas need Jesus. Jesus puts us here to point to him whenever those opportunities come up.

The Lord's blessings on your week!

Pastor Lindner

