NOT ENOUGH

John 3:1-3

1. Not enough to stay in the DARK, you have to come into the LIGHT. (3:1-2)

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; THIS MAN CAME TO HIM BY NIGHT.”

John 3:1-2

He wasn’t completely sure. He wanted to taste and see. He had some questions!

Some here this morning are at this stage….the beginning stage becoming a Christ follower…interested, intrigued, inquisitive….you have doubts and questions.

At best he was afraid for his reputation to be seen with Jesus

At worst he was afraid for his life to be seen with Jesus….he was just a fan.

But there are two things I want you to know this AM:

1. the only reason that you have these questions is because GOD is speaking to you. You are having an encounter with God this morning.

Romans 3 says,

There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God;

You are not here today by coincidence! Not chance! Not luck!

It is a divine appointment, set by God himself.

It isn’t by chance that you are interested, he has pricked your heart!

1. Jesus operates differently than we do…let me explain.

We do our best to try and talk people into following Jesus…

Jesus does just the opposite…He challenges people and most turn around.

He said that if we are ashamed of Him, He will be ashamed of us.

He said that many will call Him Father, but he will deny he knows them.

**13**“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. **14**“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; **15**nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16**Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

1. Not enough to SEE and HEAR, you have to BELIEVE. (3:2-3)

“this man came to Him by night, and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that you have come from God as a teacher; FOR NO ONE CAN DO THESE SIGNS that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:2-3

Which a few verses later Jesus breaks it down in simple terms….

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever BELIEVES in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

John 6

JESUS feeds the 5000! Food left over

Jesus walks on water. Develops the disciples more.

Jesus goes to other side…crowd eventually finds him

“And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You get here?” Jesus answered them and said, “truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.”

John 6:25-26

Jesus then tells them that HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE. The bread that was sent from Heaven to save people!

“As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore.”

John 6:66

The last step of the process looks like this…

1. Not enough to BELIEVE, you have to FOLLOW. (John 7:43-52)

43Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. 44Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him. 45Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?” 46“No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards replied. 47“You mean he has deceived you also?” the Pharisees retorted. 48“Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? 49No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.” 50Nicodemus,who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, 51“Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?” 52They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too?

John 7:43-52 (NIV)

* 1. 4 gospels: “believe in me” 5 times BUT “follow me” 25 times
  2. A decision for Christ is not the same as following/commitment

“And Nicodemus came also, who had first come to Him by night/ bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight.”

John 19:39

25Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?

Luke 14

Conclusion:

There is no forgiveness without repentance.

There is no salvation without surrender.

There is no life without death

There is no believing without committing