

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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## SERMON OUTLINE

# JESUS AS THE ONLY SOURCE OF ETERNAL LIFE

REV. DONG VILLATITO | JOHN 3:1-36

John introduces Nicodemus, a learned man and a Pharisee who approaches Jesus at night. During their time together, Nicodemus, in his search for the truth, asks Jesus three questions, to which Jesus patiently and authoritatively responds.

Upon meeting Jesus, Nicodemus called Him Rabbi, meaning teacher, and told Him He truly was of God (vv.1-2). Jesus responded by calling him to be born again to see the Kingdom of God (v.3).

Nicodemus took Jesus' response to the necessity of being born again literally but at the same time sought clarification as to what being born again is about (v.4). Jesus authoritatively spoke about the necessity of being born again, using the phrases born of water and the Spirit (v.5). These two

elements denote the cleansing power and regeneration by the Spirit as a result of being born again. In the succeeding verses, the Lord metaphorically describes the presence of the Spirit just like the wind -- you know that it is there, but you do not know where it comes from (vv.6-8). Jesus tells him that being born again is only by faith.

Verse 9 records Nicodemus' last question, "How can these things be?". In response, Jesus presents to him his inadequacy to perceive the things of God and the necessity to believe in what has been revealed to him (vv.10-12). Jesus gives Nicodemus the truth about the Son of Man, who is from heaven and has descended. He follows it up with the truth to be realized - that He is to be lifted up; thus, whoever

believes in Him may have eternal life (vv. 13-16). Verses 17-21 explain why this is so: God did not send his Son to condemn or judge but to save the world through Him.

In the succeeding verses, John the Baptist highlights the truth that he is not the Christ (vv. 22-30). He introduces Jesus in verses 31- 34 as the one who is from and above all (vv.31-32), the one who is from God (v.33), the one who utters the words of God and gives us the Spirit of God (v.34). He closes the section going back to the truth that He is from the Father and that whoever believes in the Son has Eternal Life (vv.35-36).

In this sermon, we shall be challenged to share the truth about who Jesus is - the only source of Eternal Life.\*

## ABIDE

T. KAREN MONROY

## PARSON TO PERSON

*"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."*  
John 15:4

In John 15, Jesus presented a beautiful analogy that one can easily picture and understand. In this chapter, Jesus tells the disciples that He is the True Vine, the Father is the gardener, and the disciples are the branches. The summary of this analogy is this: abide in the True Vine because a "branch" is nothing when it is not connected to the vine. It will neither grow nor bear fruit as there is no possible way for it to survive and thrive apart from the vine.

As followers of Christ, we are to abide in Him for apart from Him we are nothing. We are to abide in Him daily. We are to cultivate our relationship with Him and remain in Him no matter how difficult and challenging the road ahead may be. We are to hold on to the truth that as the True Vine, He is the one who strengthens and sustains us as we continue in our life journey. We are to find confidence in the fact that He is and will continue to be with us and will fulfill His purposes in our lives no matter what.

These truths are just some of the things that were deposited in the hearts of the women who attended the recently concluded Women's Crossroad last weekend. We praise God for

the 129 beautiful women that He brought together for connection, mutual encouragement, and most especially, a personal encounter with Jesus. It was indeed a magnificent sight to witness women from different ages, backgrounds, and seasons come together, enjoy each other's company, worship in unison, relate, learn from one another, and cultivate their love for the Lord Jesus Christ as they chose to abide in Him.

It was a time of reminder, realignment, and recommitment. It was a time of **reminder** as the ladies were reminded of the goodness and graciousness of God in their lives. It was a reminder that despite the busyness, distractions, and challenges, the hand and presence of God are very much evident in our lives. It was also a time of **realignment** as our cry and prayer is for hearts to be realigned to the heart of God. In doing so, we will desire what He desires, His good and perfect will for each one of us. Lastly, a time of **recommitment**. As the Crossroad came to an end, many lives were changed and will never be the same again as many ladies chose to commit and recommit to their relationship with the Lord. Indeed, it was a weekend full of encounters.

It is my prayer that the Lord will continue to work so mightily not only in the lives of the women who attended the Crossroad but

also in the lives of each and every believer of Christ as we choose to abide in Him daily. Remember that He is our True Vine and apart from Him we are nothing, so always choose Jesus!

### Women of Grace

This year the thrust of the church is "Each One, Disciple One." It is focused on going back to our disciple making roots and intentionally sharing the love and gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we move forward with this thrust in mind, it is good to be reminded of the "why" and the "who" - why will we do this, and for whom are we going to do it. With these questions in mind, it is important to go back and be reminded of our anchor and motivation. Ultimately, we go back to Jesus Christ.

In line with this, the Women of Grace will hold a one-day retreat on April 16, 2024, Tuesday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm at GCF South Metro. It is our prayer that through this retreat, we will be able to challenge the women to cultivate their passion for God and His Word, as well as grow their conviction and passion to minister to others in whatever capacity they can.

We encourage all women who are available to join us in this retreat. Details and the registration process will be announced in the coming weeks.\*

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