



+ **YOU**

Spring 2024
It's All About Jesus

Sermon Title: The Good News of Eternal Life

To be used with Session 1: The Mission of Jesus

The Point: Jesus came to deliver the good news of salvation for all people.

Scripture: John 3:10-21

Connection with the Study: To complement the Bible study “The Mission of Jesus,” this sermon focuses on the conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus, explaining His mission and how the prophets foretold of it. The meaningful exchange between Jesus and Nicodemus is well-known and contains some very familiar passages. Yet within the familiarity there is a deep, abiding truth that Jesus had a very specific mission on this earth. That mission was to share the good news that God is not an unreachable, unknowable deity who has left us to fend for ourselves, but that God loves and offers salvation to each and every one of us. The mission of Jesus is a mission that we are called to believe wholeheartedly, and share with all who may listen.

Introduction: There is a common misconception that light and darkness are equal and opposite forces. Some philosophies promote the idea of a “Yin and Yang”: light and darkness, sadness and joy, good and evil, equally keeping one another in balance. Nothing could be farther from the truth! Jesus shows us that the good news of salvation is built on the fact that light conquers darkness. He is the light of the world, and through Him we are called away from the darkness and into the light. In darkness we are lost, with no direction and no hope, but the good news is that Jesus frees us to the light of truth and eternal life.

1. The prophets foretold of Jesus’s mission (John 3:10-15).

Nicodemus was no uneducated man. He was a respected leader who had spent his life learning and studying the law in order to teach it to others. As a Pharisee, and “a ruler of the Jews,” he would have been familiar with the prophecies about Jesus and should have recognized Jesus immediately! In his defense, Nicodemus had taken notice and was certainly interested in learning more about this teacher from Galilee. He knew what others were saying but sought him out personally in order to ask questions of Jesus himself. Yet as they spoke, Jesus was amazed that this wise teacher of Israel couldn’t understand the truth that was right in front of him. In their conversation, Jesus used the example of Moses lifting up the snake in the desert as an example of how Jesus must be lifted up. Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man, echoing the language of Daniel 7:14, where the Messiah was prophesied as having “dominion and glory and a kingdom” that would last forever. Jesus was connecting those dots of prophetic references that Nicodemus surely understood. In speaking to Nicodemus, Jesus

declared Himself to be the Son of God, foretold by the prophets, who alone offers eternal life.

2. Jesus proclaimed the good news of eternal life (John 3:16-18).

This passage contains what it perhaps the best-known verse in all of Scripture. And it is well-known for good reason; here we see the heart of the gospel articulated clearly by the very one Who made that gospel a reality. Jesus spoke of His own atoning sacrifice as the biggest, brightest, most beautiful example of God's deep love for His own creation and the lengths to which He would go to display His grace and willingness to save all humanity. There are so many who still view God as a disciplinarian who only aims to set impossible rules and punish those who break them. Many see God as One to be avoided, in hopes that our sin does not come to His attention. Yet Jesus tells us that God sees us as we are, sin and all. Yet He affirmed that His role is not to condemn, but to love, save, and bring us a gift of a life more abundant of this earth and an eternal life in the presence of a loving God in the next. Death and hate have now been conquered forever. The love of God was on full display, and when we believe in him we have an eternal hope.

3. Jesus brought the good news of light in a dark world (John 3:19-21).

Eternal life, endless joy, and freedom from sin and fear are the greatest gifts we could ever be offered. Yet Jesus explained that there are many who will neglect this gift, instead opting for darkness and evil. He went as far as to say that they "loved" the darkness. In what ways do we love the darkness? Are there areas of our lives where we intentionally hide from God, hoping that He doesn't see? Like Adam in the garden of Eden, we often try to hide our sin from a God Who knows what we do before we do it. It is a futile effort to cling to something that brings momentary pleasure but long-term sorrow and eternal pain. The mission of Jesus is good news! He shows us what it means to live and walk in the light: (1) existing in the glow of God's love no matter the circumstance; (2) choosing to follow Him; and (3) knowing that in Christ alone we can experience true, unshakable peace and fulfillment.

Conclusion: Like Nicodemus, there are many who know *about* Jesus but don't really know him. They have heard stories, know a few religious things, but they are still walking in darkness. Perhaps some of us are walking in darkness right now. Yet God loves the world and desires for us to walk in His marvelous light! He invites us to know Him and share the love He offers with those around us. The good news of Jesus is the news of eternal life. There is something more than what this world has to offer, and it is available right now for us to accept and share.

Jason Soroski is a pastor and teacher who holds degrees in Church Music and Education from Missouri Baptist University and is active in his local church. His best known writing is [Drop the Blanket: the Moment you Never Noticed in a Charlie Brown Christmas](#).