

Dear Families:

This week, we discussed the story in the Gospel of John that tells of Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus. Nicodemus had seen Jesus' miraculous works and knew that He had to have come from God. One night, Nicodemus sought out Jesus to ask Him some questions; wouldn't we be tempted to do the same if God was here in the flesh! Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born again in order to enter the kingdom of God. Nicodemus gets confused- how can a person go back inside their mother and be born twice? But that is not what Jesus is talking about. Jesus says that we need to be born twice- once of the flesh, and once of the Spirit. The way to Heaven, Jesus says, is through Him. He tells Nicodemus that God has sent Him to Earth to be sacrificed for our sins. If we believe this and live out this new life we will not be condemned.

Today is the second Sunday in the season of Lent. Throughout this season, we need to be reminded that we will die- it's inevitable. In order to go to Heaven and live forever, we need to be born of the Spirit. If you haven't accepted your new birth yet, do so right away! Then commit to your new life, living the way God wants you to live and working for His glory.

This first week of Lent, we were challenged to fast. This second week of Lent, we are adding the discipline of prayer. Praying is talking to God. God loves it when we pray- it shows that we want to be near Him, listen to Him, and worship Him. Prayer would be a great opportunity to talk to Him about what Nicodemus did: ask Him to forgive you, tell Him that he is worshipped, beg for His mercy, Thank Him for all the wonderful blessings He has given you, ask Him for help. Try your hardest to pray without ceasing this week!

Today is the last Sunday of weekly hot chocolate sales! Purchase a cup this week to help the students support their mission. Missed it? Don't worry- there is an ongoing mini-rummage sale in Fellowship Hall. You can continue to bring in bottle slips. And the donation boxes in Fellowship Hall are always there. The bin that supports our church Blessing Box is also in constant need of items. There are many other ways to support the youth in their stewardship projects.

Thank you for being with us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director