

The Word collides the World

- Introduction
 - Last week looked at Matt 3 Jesus' baptism answered the question 'why did Jesus have to be baptized?'
 - God comes down
 - Continue today

John 1:1-14 (NRSV)

Tension: Why did Jesus his own people reject him? Why do people still reject him today?

- The eternal colliding with the present is the intersection of the Gospel.
 - Eternal= beyond time, time doesn't mean the same
 - Past, Present and the future
 - Sees Abraham, Moses, Peter, Paul, St. Thomas, Wesley all at the same time
 - Human mind can't comprehend
 - Grains of sand/Stars in sky/molecules in just 10 regular size drops of water outnumber them!
 - Incarnation=
 - Eternal breaking into the here and now, challenges us when it happens and we can accept it or reject it
 - Easier when looking back, Word becoming flesh (Jesus), Peter and Gentiles, Peter and Paul=circumcision, Food sacrificed to idols, Protestant Reformation, Wesley and the Methodist movement, Slavery, Civil Rights
 - How do we recognize it today? How do we know it's really God?
 - When we begin to look at the present we see why it wasn't so easy for Jesus' own people
- V. 1
 - Logos the Greek understanding of the word
 - Unseen Cause or logic that was responsible for order and symmetry in nature
 - Preoccupation of Greek philosophy was to identify this ultimate reason or Logos, could not define or find it
 - John answers it here in John 1
 - Face to Face relationship with God
- V.3
 - Gen 1, Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:2= Jesus is the Creator
- V. 4
 - Life and death
 - Death flees in his presence
 - 1 Corinthians 15:54-55 "When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
 - Light in darkness
 - One small light= no darkness
 - No darkness in light
- V. 7
 - Witness= to testify= to declare
 - Greek word= pisteuo
 - Believe= to trust=
 - 100 times in John
 - Action that must happen to receive eternal life
- V. 11
 - Reception and rejection

- “To Receive with favor”, “welcome”
 - Rejection
 - Jesus had door slammed in his face
- V. 14
 - Human and God
 - Incarnation, God became man
 - This ‘claim’ would have been considered sinful= reason that the religious rulers/Jews/Jesus’ own people rejected him
 - Nicene creed “very God of very God; begotten, not Made, being of one substance with the Father”
 - Philippians 2
 - Became flesh in the physical sense not the ‘sin’ sense
 - Dwelt= tent= tabernacle= Eugene Peterson The Message Paraphrase “The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.”
 - Grace and truth
- John 21:25
 - Jesus did many things
 - He still is doing many things
 - Our job as his followers is to seek those out, continue to challenge ‘conventional’ thinking, trust the Word and Spirit, discern where the eternal is breaking in and where the ‘world is trying to influence’, As followers of Christ we are called influence culture not culture influence us

Closing