

Sermon #1: Like a Diamond

07 Sept 2025

BREAKING THE ICE

- Do you think most people believe people are generally good or evil?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Romans 3:9-12, 23; Ephesians 2:1-3; John 3:14-18; Num 21:4-9)

1. How does Paul describe the spiritual condition of humanity according to Rom 3:9-12?
2. What does Rom 3:23 say about the scope of sin on humanity?
3. How does Paul elaborate on this truth when writing to the Ephesian church in Eph 2:1-3?
4. How does the Bible's description of humanity's spiritual state compare to a common, secular view that people are generally good?
5. How might an improper view of ourselves (i.e. humanity) hinder us from recognizing our deep need for a Savior?
6. Now read John 3:14-18 and describe how God has chosen to provide salvation through His Son?

Note: Verse 14 compares God's physical salvation of the Israelites under Moses to what He would do through His Son, Jesus. Read about this physical salvation of Israelites in Numbers 21:4-9 to better understand John 3:16-18.

7. Who was responsible for the poisonous snakes that "condemned" the Israelites?
8. How were they to be saved from the poisonous snake bites?

Note: In vs 14, John writes "Just as . . ." to show that this Old Testament story of salvation is analogous to how God would bring salvation through His Son.

9. So, who is responsible for the condemnation of people mentioned in John 3:18?
10. According to John 3:16 & 18, how is a condemned person to be saved from condemnation?
11. How does John 3:14-18 reveal both God's righteous judgment and gracious salvation working together?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Read Isaiah 53:4-6 (This is a prophetic passage that foretells the death of Jesus)

⁴ Yet he (Jesus) himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains; but we in turn regarded him stricken, **struck down by God**, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; **punishment for our peace was on him**, and we are healed by his wounds. ⁶ We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; **and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all**.

- How does seeing both the judgment of God the Father upon His Son (see bolded phrases) AND the mercy it provided for those who believe, humble you & reveal to you the depth of grace God has shown us?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. How has understanding the depth of your sinful state produced a deeper humility in your life?
2. Why is this humility so central to experiencing the grace God offers through Jesus Christ?
3. In what ways does our behavior as Christians contradict the truths behind our salvation?
4. What is one step you could take this week to embody these truths with those in your life who are not Christians?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.