

Davidson College Presbyterian Church
Davidson, North Carolina
Anne Catherine Bradley
Riley Jones
Trevor Merrifield
Caroline Piephoff
John 3: 1-17
Youth Sunday
4th Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2015

After reading over John, chapter 3: verses 1-17, the verses 10, 11, and 12 stuck out to me the most. I looked at a bible called The Message, a biblical paraphrase, and I used that particular bible to further my understanding of these three verses. / In the Message Bible, these verses read:

“Jesus said, “You’re a respected teacher of Israel and you don’t know these basics? Listen carefully. I’m speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. / There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay. Yet instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with questions. / If I tell you things that are plain as the hand before your face and you don’t believe me, what use is there in telling you of things you can’t see, the things of God?” /

As a senior in high school, I can’t begin to tell you how hard it is not to procrastinate. When I’m supposed to be doing my homework, chores, or even writing this sermon, there seemed to be more important, more fun things to do. / Now in the passage, Jesus talks about how Nicodemus procrastinates with questions, but he doesn’t elaborate on what kind of questions those are. I took away that the questions that Jesus was referring to were **unhelpful** questions, or questions that are not actually seeking answers. / Some examples of unhelpful questions pertaining to church may be “Why are the youth preaching today?” or “Why did church go past 12?” or even “Why is this girl still preaching?” These questions are not seeking answers they are just being said. While attempting to start this sermon, I asked myself many unhelpful questions like “When am I going to have time?” or “How am I going to have any ideas?”

Now, **helpful** questions are the right ones to ask. / I found that helpful questions could be things like “How can I represent the youth as a whole, while also representing myself to the congregation?” or “How can I be an ambassador of this congregation and to my faith?” / When Jesus tells Nicodemus that his questions are just deflecting what Jesus is telling him, I think that he is telling Nicodemus to ask helpful questions; questions to help him understand what Jesus is trying to tell him. Now he may not be saying to believe everything you hear, but asking those helpful questions can be beneficial to understanding one’s faith and what they, / themselves believe. / Everybody has questions about everything. Humans are curious; it’s just how we are. I know that when I was growing up, I was ALWAYS asking my mom questions, and not necessarily the helpful ones. Questions are for clarification, and they help you understand better. I have found that through my faith journey, questions are absolutely necessary to understanding the bible, the world, and yourself. / So, next time you are struggling to understand something, whether it be a passage in the Bible, a math problem, or something about your faith, do not be afraid to ask God, your peers, your family, or those around you as many questions as you need. ~ Anne Catherine Bradley



Jesus says, “The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”! All of us have what people refer to as a calling. A calling to do something, a calling to be something, or a calling to experience something. Some of us might already know what this calling is while others have no idea. Everyone who

has known me since I was little has known that I have wanted to be a veterinarian. I have never known what has attracted me to this, all I know is that I love animals and helping them. I can say throughout high school, I have thought about possibly following another career path with animals, but nothing has interested me more than being a vet. Even when you believe you've found this calling, you still don't know where it is going to take you. Figuring out what your calling is can be a difficult task; for some, it is more difficult than for others. Once you figure it out, then what? This is where I think I am in my life now. I've wanted to pursue the career of being a vet for a long time, and I am at that point now when I can start down that path. I know the facts of what I am getting myself into, but I truly don't know where I will end up. There are so many paths I can take to pursue this career. Jesus tells us that God chooses where his wind blows. This wind is apparent through the people that God has placed in our lives to guide us and mold us. Even though I know that I have felt God's wind and am following the right path at this time in my life, I am going to continue to listen to the Spirit for guidance as I travel down this path. ~ Riley Jones

