

Pastor Jordan Gades Sermon 5.30.21 John 3: 1-17

Grace and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

This has been a year of change. Some changes good, some bad. Well, maybe more than “some”. But, it’s from some of those bad things that we’ve learned some good. Maybe you’ve learned which of your friends you can rely on if your lonely because they knew when no one else could see you. Maybe you’ve discovered or rediscovered a hobby from having more time at home. Maybe you’ve been able to reconnect with family members who might have become a little distant but were always a phone call away.

And it’s that reconnecting with family that I can really relate to. Being able to work at home meant I was able to spend more real quality time with them. And while, yes, it definitely wasn’t all sunshine and roses, no relationships are, this last year will be a time for me that I will always look back on as something special. Be a husband more, be a father more. And one of the things that has touched me the most is my little girls telling me how excited they are to go with me to next year’s father daughter dance. You gotta know how much they love going. They know it’s all about them. They get all dolled up, they pick their hair, there jewelry, they get to pick a little makeup. They pick out there pretty little dresses and get sparkly little shoes on, they love every minute of it. They love the attention they get and they deserve it, because in *my completely unbiased opinion*, they are the 2 cutest little girls in the entire world. They go through all that work, pick every little detail and it has to be perfect but the second they get to the dance, it’s like the last 2 hours didn’t even happen or ever matter. They just love dancing. They let go. They love the freedom of just being caught up in the moment and music like only a child can. They love the running around, the making new friends, making up new dances and jumping and twirling. The one thing that they especially love is being spun around. They spin and spin and spin as I hold their hand. They get so dizzy but they never want to stop. The elation never seems to end. They are free to dance knowing that i will not let them fall.

Can you imagine how our God feels when we want to join the eternal dance that the Trinity have been spinning in since time and creation began? God wants to be there for us. God wants us to join in this perfect relationship that God shows to all of us. The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit. Then keeping in perfect step and showing perfect love. We are invited again and again and again back into the presence and movement of our God. It is the very nature of our God to want us to be a part of this cosmic, phenomenal dance and it has been woven within our being to feel the beat and rhythm and want nothing more than to join in. It is this longing that drives us yet what stops us from joining in this movement?

This last year has knocked us all on our heels. We are looking for something solid to hold onto. We want to be in control again. We want to be taking the steps in the direction that we want to be going. I see that in my own life and see it when I talk to so many people in our community. But this last year has done more than just knock us back on our heels, we are no longer facing the same direction. We have been struck, spun, flipped, stunned, deafened, blinded. WE are in a place we don’t fully know. And so, we ask the question, now what? We

have been at the mercy of another power and we want control again, we want power again. We see some things that look familiar and so we start barreling towards them.

And it is at this critical point that we must stop. If we barrel off without being led we are going to get lost. We'll end up like a kite in the wind without a string. We'll end up spinning and spinning with no one to hold our hand and keep us up.

What will be happening in these next few weeks and months is a mystery. But we are being invited into the mystery of tomorrow and the mystery of the moving of our God with Christ Holding our hand. With Christ Guiding us. With Christ keeping us up. We don't have to know everything. Nicodemus sure didn't in our gospel reading. We also don't have to fear what's going to happen next. WE are being invited by our God to join in shaping and moving in the mystery of tomorrow.

It's time for us to be swept up in the movement of our God. It's time for us to let go of the control that we think we need to have. God is leading you in the direction you need to be going. Might not make a lot of sense at the time, might seem a bit scary, might, might not be comfortable, might not seem like it's what you want, BUT God does not let us fall. We know our God, We know our Savior.

Jesus has shown how much he cares for us, for you. In today's reading He was awoken in the middle of the night by some stranger who was a part of a group that was actively trying to figure out a way to kill Jesus, And what does Jesus do, still he tries to bring a message of hope and life to Nicodemus. Jesus doesn't want him to fall and he does not want us to fall.

I hope you are hearing the sense of freedom and hope in that today. We are free to dance. We are free to listen to the music of the Spirit and move in this world. God has us. And God is using every step and leap and spin we do for the transformation of this world. Amen.