



Key Scripture:

1 Corinthians 1:20–25 (ESV)

[...] Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

John 3:3–8 (ESV)

³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Romans 10:13–17 (ESV)

¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Discussion Questions:

In 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 Paul writes about how Gentiles & Jews differently judge the value of Christianity; wisdom and powerful signs. **Are these two values still the same for spiritual and secular groups today examining Christianity? How do you see this played out?**

In John 3:4 Nicodemus points out the foolishness of what Jesus was telling him. **Why does 1 Corinthians 1:23-25 call the understanding of spiritual truths, like by Jesus in John 3:3-8, “stumbling blocks”? How are these stumbling blocks overcome for non-believers?**

Romans 10:13 stats the simplicity of salvation, but then asks how even this simple act will be achieved for those that have not heard the gospel. **Do these questions in Romans 10:14-15 apply to all Christians or to evangelistic preachers? What then is your personal duty for preaching the gospel?**

Do you remember a specific time that God has used you to speak the gospel to someone? As we grow closer in relationship to the Holy Spirit how do you think these opportunities could increase? What can you do to overcome fear in these situations?

From 1 Corinthians 1:21 did God intentionally make the gospel sound foolish without a spiritual revelation of it? Why is this?

Nicodemus, a devote Jew, would have understood himself to be a part of God’s chosen people as his birthright. But Jesus was now telling him that he now additionally had to be reborn. **Is it possible for us to also falsely rely on our Christian birthright (*parent’s faith, salvation call at summer camp, leadership position*)? As Jesus warn Nicodemus should we take any warning for ourselves out of this?**

John 3:15 and Romans 10:13 states the gospel in simple terms. **Is salvation really that simple? How would you explain these passages to a non-believer that was earnestly looking in?**

Have you, in anyway, become distracted from the core gospel message of Jesus and its proclamation? Is God encouraging you in anything this week?

How does Jesus reveal, in John 16:12-13, the Holy Spirit’s part in our human understanding?