

Scripture Lesson for March 14, 2021 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Introduction: The Gospel Lesson John 3:14-21

In the opening of the 3rd chapter of the John, Jesus has his famous visit with Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. They start out talking about what is required to see the Kingdom of God: Being born from above. This leads to Nicodemus challenging Jesus about being “born again.” Nicodemus pushes harder against Jesus by asserting this: “How can these things be?” Jesus continues teaching Nicodemus. Listen to the rest of the story in chapter 3, verses 14-21 of John’s gospel:

Gospel Lesson: John 3:14-21

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[a]

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”^[b]

From the Beatitudes: Matthew 5:7

NRSV: ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

The Message: ⁷ “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.