

3-13-22 Facilitator – The Mystery of Christ’s Saving Love, Eph 3:1-13

1. **Launchers:**

- When you hear the word “mystery” what comes to mind?

2. **Worship: Read Ephesians 2:11-22 Outsiders and Aliens, Blessed in the Beloved**

Read Ephesians 2:11-22. Praise God for His work to make aliens to family, enemies to children, rebels to servants. Feel the distance of the rejection you deserve. Then sit in the wonder of the intimacy you now enjoy.

3. **Sermon Reflection: Ephesians 3:1-13 (3-13-22: The Mystery of Christ’s Saving Love)**

THE RACE QUESTION

- How is it a *mystery* that God’s Grace would reach the nations?
- Who makes your “LOST CAUSE” list?

THE GRACE MIRACLE

- How is it a mystery that God saves who He does?
- Why is Paul “the least”?
- How are you persuaded that you have been God’s enemy?
- How does his **sharing** of power change your relationship with it?

GOD’S MYSTERIOUS TOOL

- Why does God work through suffering? (1 Peter 2:19 This is a gracious thing – God’s work on display -, when mindful of God, one endures sorrow while suffering unjustly)
- How is it a mystery that God works the way He does?
- How do you need to re-think suffering and trust God?

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...**

1. Worship the LORD for His sovereign wisdom and power in all things. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that He works all things together for the good of His people in keeping with His loving purposes.

2. How have you lived as if suffering ruins *everything*, even God’s plans? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to heal your perspective *to see His wisdom and love working through hardship*.

3. Give thanks to Jesus for all that He willingly (even *joyfully*) suffered in order to save us! Thank Him for doing *what no creature (not human nor angel) could do – atoning and healing rebels like us by His death and resurrection*.

4. Who do you know that is living through hardship and they’re baffled? Pray for them, asking the Lord to give them vision of His power and grace to turn evil to good, and to use suffering to accomplish redemption.

5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and joy. Pray that He would give you ever-increasing wonder at the Mystery of Jesus’ saving Grace – conquering all of your and His enemies by His loving power.

5. **Mission: Read Trinity Proposition #4 – The Mystery of Evangelism by Suffering**

Trinity Ministry Presupposition #4: We follow a risen Savior who went through crucifixion and so we expect His plan of redemption to include suffering. This is realistic because: 1) to really love someone is costly as we inherently give ourselves for their benefit; and 2) the expansion of God’s kingdom in this world has always been violently contested by forces of spiritual darkness. It is war.

Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, who stood facing Him saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God”!... 1 Peter 2:19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

To endure unjust suffering graciously evangelizes our friends and enemies.

- Where are you enjoying the opportunities to be a display of His mercy by suffering unjustly for God’s glory?