

**Refuge City Church — March 17, 2024**  
**“Glory, Grace, & Truth” (John 1:14)**

***Introduction***

- As we enter this Easter season, it's typical for many to address the passion week of Jesus [Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday]... as we're going to do.
- But as I've been praying through our Easter series this year [**“Hope, Tragedy, and Triumph”**], I believe the Lord steered me to bring this message today.
  - I was originally planning to keep plugging away on our study through the gospel of Matthew.
- As we discuss Palm Sunday, the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, there may be some that ask, *“What led Jesus to enter Jerusalem in such a manner?”*
- As we discuss Good Friday, the crucifixion and death of Jesus, some might ask, *“Why did He have to die?”*
- And as we are reminded of His glorious resurrection on Easter, some might ask, *“What does this all mean?”*
  - The Easter season may bring good feelings, but it needs to be so much more to those of us who claim the name of Jesus!
- So we're going to look at a very powerful verse that can help us develop a much deeper understanding of Easter, in *who* Jesus is, and *why* He came.

**John 1:14**, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- There is so much packed in to this one verse!
- Let's start at the beginning = “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”
  - **John 1:1-3**, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”
  - “Word” [Greek; *logos*] = Jesus... who is God, and is the expression of God to His people.
    - This is the beauty of Christianity! God came down, took on human flesh, and desires to dwell with us.
    - What better way to understand the God of the universe, than to have Him before our very eyes.
    - **Hebrews 1:3**, “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”
  - Jesus is the Word by which everything about God is revealed to us!
    - By His words, He created all things.
    - By His words, He revealed Himself to the prophets, who spoke boldly to God's people.
    - By His words, He brings healing and salvation.

- Can we truly wrap our minds around the idea that God desires to dwell with us! Think on that...
  - It was His plan from the beginning of time to be with His people.
- Keep this in mind when we return to our study through the Gospel of Matthew!

**John 1:14**, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- Let’s look at three other words in this verse that help us moving forward [Glory, Grace, Truth]
- “...and we have seen his *glory, glory* as of the only Son from the Father...”
- 1. Can you define the glory of God? What does that look like to you? Can you think of anything you’ve experienced that might come close?
  - “Glory” = *unspoken manifestation of God; divine quality; splendor*.
    - Whereas the logos/Word was the physical/verbal manifestation of God, His glory is unspoken, yet provides so many things.
      - **Exodus 24:17**, “Now the appearance of the *glory* of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.”
        - The glory of God is power!
      - **Exodus 16:4-7**, “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.’ So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, ‘At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the *glory* of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?’”
        - The glory of the Lord is provision!
      - **Exodus 29:43, 46**, “There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my *glory*... And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.”
        - The glory of the Lord is sanctifying [set apart for holiness]!
  - When we look at glory from a human perspective, we put it into these terms:
    - Some may receive glory in sport [fame, prestige, honor, distinction]
    - When we think about giving God the glory [praise, worship, adoration]
    - When something is restored to its former glory [magnificence, greatness, beauty/elegance]
  - What is the *opposite* of glory??
    - Shame/ashamed; obscurity; lowliness; a sense of being incomplete.
    - So what does humanity, apart from Christ, do to run from those feelings of obscurity?
      - We involve ourselves in anything that will supply us a sense of self-glorification, no matter the cost; no matter the sin.
- 2. What does it mean that Jesus was “full of grace and truth”?
  - “Grace” = unmerited favor; gratitude; blessing [consider the beatitudes]; inclusiveness.

- God is grace. Jesus came to save us by His grace, His favor.
- **Ephesians 2:8**, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”
  - His grace justifies and sanctifies! There is nothing that you have to do to earn God’s favor. He gives it freely!
- **2 Corinthians 12:9**, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”
  - His grace, like His glory, is power & provision for your life. It enables you to keep going despite this sin-filled world.
- What is the *opposite* of grace??
  - Interference; obstacle; hindrance; inelegance; vulgarity; crude.
  - We are an arrogant and selfish people apart from Christ.
    - If anything hinders us from achieving what we want, we will do whatever it takes to accomplish things for our own satisfaction... and we do so without consideration of others. [self-glorification along with self-gratification]
    - There is no compassion in the graceless.
- “Truth” = not only spoken truth; but of idea, reality, sincerity, and morality.
  - Jesus, the Word, is the expressed truth of God.
  - **John 14:6**, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
  - **John 8:31-32**, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
    - Therefore all things apart from Christ are lies!
    - What is the enemy of this world going to attack you with?? [half-truths/lies]
    - **Ephesians 6:14**, “Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth...”
- What is the *opposite* of truth??
  - Lies; dishonesty; falsehood; deceit.
  - **Ephesians 4:25**, “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.”
  - **Proverbs 12:17, 19-20, 22**, “Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit... Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment. Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy... Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.”
  - It’s in our very nature to lie and deceive.

**John 1:14**, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- Jesus is the very necessity [glory, grace, truth] of what we need for salvation! Without which, we have no hope.
- When sin entered the world, we all inherited that sin.
  - **Romans 3:23**, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
  - **Romans 5:8**, “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

- **Romans 6:23**, “for the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- This is the beauty of why God became flesh! He came to bring salvation to everyone who would receive Him, and believe in His name.
- **John 1:7, 10-12**, “He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,”
- This is who He is. This is why He came.
  - This is why He would enter Jerusalem triumphantly!
  - This is why He would suffer and die on the cross. Providing forgiveness for our sins.
  - This is why we celebrate His resurrection from the dead. Giving us the hope of eternal life.
  - Without Him, we are tragic and hopeless. Defeated in our sin.
  - Because of Him, we live in the light of His glory, grace, and truth.