

**Sermon Series: Fish Tales
Part Four – Muddy Water****John 3:16****Series Summary**

Have you ever thought there was more to being a Christian than just going to church on Sunday and singing some songs, going to Bible Studies, or being involved in the church choir? There is much more to being a Christian as Jesus reminds us from the very first day that He calls us to Him! Jesus wants to make His followers fishers of men. God will take and shape the potential of His followers so that they will be perfectly positioned in someone else's life to help them understand how to be a follower of Christ.

Big Idea

The big idea is: *The Gospel is Simple, We Have Made it Complicated!* There are many people that have been turned off to Christianity because they have never been given a consistent message. Tradition, theology, denominationalism, self-righteousness, sin, and much more gets in the way of presenting the Biblical message. The true message is simple and it does not change: God loved us enough to give His Son, Jesus, to die for us. All He asks of us is that we place our trust in Him, and He will give us eternal life.

Cleaning Up the Muddy Water

- **Key Questions to Consider:**
 - **What are the basics of the Gospel?**
 - **Can you share the basics of the Gospel in less than a minute?**

What People Need to Know...**A. Three Causes of Contamination**

- **Self**
- **Sin**
- **Satan**
- **Genesis 4:6-7**
- **Key Point** – There are three major categories or areas of contamination when it comes to the Gospel. Jesus has made the message clear yet mankind has found a way to overcomplicate it. Mankind allows their own self-centered objectives, sin itself, and Satan to cloud their perception of the Gospel and therefore they present a Gospel with conditions attached to it.

B. The Extent of God's Love

- **Eph. 2:4-5**
- **1 John 4:9-10**
- **Key Point** – John 3:16 begins with telling us the extent of God's love as He sent His one and only Son to die on the cross for the sin of mankind. This is the beginning of the Gospel that leads to eternal life.

C. The Power of God's Gift

- **Romans 5:8**
- **1 Corinthians 15:3-5**

- **Key Point** – The latter part of John 3:16 explains the power of God’s Gift as we come to the understanding that the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ had to be made for our sins. No one else could save you fro your sins, not even yourself, your good works, your good behavior, or even how much money you give to the church.

What People Need to Do...

A. Believe in Him

- **John 14:1**
- **Romans 1:16-17**
- **Key Point** – Upon finding out the basics components of the Gospel, we then move to the point of asking what do we actually need to do. The first step is as simple as it sounds: Simply accept Him and Believe in Jesus as the Son of God.

B. Respond to Him

- **John 17:3**
- **John 8:32**
- **Key Point** – The final step is just as simple: *Respond to the Invitation of Christ*. It is one thing to Believe in Jesus Christ but it is another thing to let your pride go, humble yourself before God, and Respond to Jesus by accepting Him as your Lord and Savior through these basic steps: Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Baptized, and Live a Holy Life.

Question to Consider

- How have you overcomplicated the Gospel message in your life? Explain.

Memory Verse

Romans 5:8 – But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us!

Big Challenge

Find one way this week to share the Simple Message of the Gospel with one person. (Letter, Phone, Conversations, Love...) Give us your testimony on what God does through you.

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