

We ended up having three kids today. We had a kindergartner join us but it was still a lot of fun. We're talking about what our faith is and what makes us who we are. We're talking about what it means. They love God, as well as God loving us. I don't know if you heard me but when we were doing the blessing of the backpacks, I told the group that somebody this week called me their enemy and it was an interesting discussion.

I was with Preacher Sam and we were meeting like we do, And he's telling me about a book he read about C.S Lewis and then he said, you have two really friends, two real friends in your life. You might have hundreds of friends but you have two real friends in your life. You have your friend that you call no matter what, That's always going to be there. Whenever you have problems. Whenever you need something, you have that one friend. And then, I have you. All right? What? What does that mean? He's like, well, You have your enemies, Your friend, who agrees with absolutely nothing that you do. The friend, who disagrees with you at all points. The friend that no matter what, you know, will still be there for you, but will probably make a shot about it at some point or another. I'm like, well at least you acknowledge that I'm your friend. And what we were talking about, we are talking about whether or not how you know, God loves you, but more importantly, we are talking about is his Jesus our Jesus?

He was trying to decide if we were worshiping a false Jesus or if he's worshiping a false Jesus. And I didn't understand why. So I asked him, why do you think we have a different Jesus than you have a different Jesus? He's like, well, you guys believe weird things? Like you believe God loves everybody. Yes, That's a weird thing. That's a weird thing for us to believe. It's like yes, God doesn't love everybody. I am like where in the Bible, does it say that God only loves certain people. Tell me where it says that. He is like we don't need to worry about that. I'm like, why don't we need to worry about that? He's like, because it's in there. Okay, What else? What else do we believe that's weird? You believe that Jesus died for everybody? Yes, You'll believe that Jesus Loved everybody, too. And I said, yes, I do. I do believe. I do believe that Jesus died for all of us. I do believe that Jesus loves us. Can we talk some more about that? The one thing that I love doing to Sam is Sam is brilliant. In my views, he's a little misguided. In his views I'm a lot misguided.

I love talking about scriptures with Sam because we see it from two completely different points of view. We both respect each other enough that we leave these conversations, not necessarily feeling better about each other, but we at least have the respect for each other that we can have these conversations without getting angry. We have these conversations, and we listen to each other. So many times, people get angry at other people and they stop listening. They stop communicating. They stopped talking about the important parts.

I don't know if any of you watched the debate last week. I'm not going to talk about the debate aside from the fact that there are so many people on both sides of that argument and they're not listening to each other. They're not respecting that everybody can have their own opinion, and their own view. They're talking about why one person was right and the other person was wrong. They're talking about how we should be listening to them, and they should be not listening to us. They talk about all these things that they don't respect the fact that we have our own ideas and our own choices.

I brought up today's scripture. He doesn't necessarily agree with the Old Testament as much as we do. And so I brought up today's verse, and I asked him if God does not love everybody. why did he tell Abram to count the Stars? And he said, why? Why not? Like, do you know that scripture? Of course, I know that scripture. Okay, So let's talk about it. Let's really talk about what God is saying. In this scripture to Abram, we know, Abram is Abraham. We know this is the first Covenant that God makes with all of us through him. And he tells Abram, he tells him to go find land. He says you will one day have children. It says that you will have more children than the stars. It says, if you can count the stars, You'll have more children than that.

And Sam asked me. What's the point? Why? Why are you bringing this up? Tell me in that scripture where does it say count only the white stars? Where does it say to count only the straight stars. Where does it say to count only the stars that are male? Doesn't It tells you to count all of the stars? God made this Covenant with Abraham to show how much he loved him. To show how much he loves all of us, not certain people, not certain stars. He loves everyone.

I believe that we are all those stars, It doesn't matter who we came from, where we came from, what we started with. We are all of those stars. We are all Abraham's children. We know that we all have God's love through him, You know, that no matter what, whether there were more people in the world at that time or not, whether they came to be,, God has come to all of us through him. Whether we're Jews, whether we're Christian, or whether we're Muslim. We all came through Abraham together. We all share that same Covenant. We don't all have to be white. We don't all have to be straight. We don't all have to be men. If we were all men, it'd be a very different world that we live in. And it'll be a very different Church at that point.

So many women get overlooked, but we couldn't exist without the significance of women. We couldn't have this church succeed day in and day out without them. So why would we want to separate our faith by gender? Why would we want to separate our faith by anything? As we are all a part of God's world, We're all a part of his love. It needs to remember that. We need to remember that when the time comes, we might have differences, But we are all one of those Stars. Let us pray.