



May 28

Passage: 3 John

It's Friday Jr!! That's what I like to call Thursday! Lol pretty lame, I know, but it just means we are one day closer to the weekend! Anyway, take a minute, push distractions aside, get settled with your Bible and start with prayer. Thank God for a copy of His Word in a language you can read, and ask Him for understanding as we read today.

We are going to spend today and tomorrow in 3 John. Although it's a short letter we will be unpacking a lot! John is writing this letter to Gaius, a fellow brother in Christ. Today our focus is going to be on the contrast of Gaius and Diotrephes in John's letter.

READ & DIG. READ ALL OF 3 JOHN (Underline anything that sticks out.)

GAIUS' FAITHFULNESS

Gaius is the audience of John's letter, and we see in the beginning verses that Gaius would probably be considered a friend or mentee of John due to verse 4. John address him in love and rejoices in the work that Gaius is doing for Christ. (v1-4). Gaius has been faithful to the Gospel of Christ. He has been walking in truth as a light to all. At the end of the chapter we see John encourage Gaius to continue to walk in truth, walk in light, imitating what is good as displayed by Christ. Gaius serves as an example to us as to how we are supposed to walk. We are to walk in truth. Walk in light. Imitate what is good. Keep close to Jesus as we do kingdom work for His glory.

DIOTREPHE'S REJECTION

Juxtaposed next to Gaius' faithfulness to the gospel we see Diotrephes' rejection of the gospel. While Gaius was the example for what we are to do, Diotrephes is the example of what we are not to do. Diotrephes was a selfish. He "likes to put himself first" and did not acknowledge the authority of John (v9). He was a man who considered himself to be "in" the church, and thought himself to be quite a powerful figure as we see that he would refuse to welcome people into the church and would pick who he wanted in and out of the church (v10). He did not follow Jesus' example of loving and welcoming all, rather he adopted a prideful, selfish mentality that elevated himself and diminished the Lord. Quite the opposite of John 3:30 "He must increase. I must decrease." But we know that bullies like Diotrephes do not have the final say. We do not answer to them nor do we serve them. The gospel calls all of us to surrender to the authority and power of Christ. The gospel calls us to love and to serve. The gospel provides us with the freedom to walk in light, surefooted that Christ will be victorious and exalted above all. So while it may seem that people like Diotrephes get their way on this Earth, we know and can be sure that the Gospel is immutable in its truthfulness and irreversible in its effect on those who believe it.

!Apply & GO...

- Take heart!
- Stay faithful to the gospel!
- Walk in truth!