

Scripture - **John 3:8-17**

**You are Awesome! Jesus told me So!**

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God. Thank you so much for all the people that have helped us to know you.

Pour out your grace and mercy on us today that we may feel your love. Amen

**You are Awesome! Jesus told me So!**

**Which Bible verses are an important part of your life?**

When I saw that part of the lectionary for today was John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.” I thought “oh my... how many times have I have heard that verse!” I don’t have any statistics, but I think John 3: 16, has to be in the top 10 most quoted and memorized Bible verses. If I had a nickle for every time my grandmother or my Sunday School teachers told me God loved me and he sent Jesus to save me, I’d be in Warren Buffet’s tax bracket. Well, probably not... I would have been like Hwapyoung, I would have spent those nickles on ice cream.

My grandmother and the adults around me also believed in the importance of the whole story, John 3: 17, “Indeed, God did not send the Son, into the world to **condemn** the world, but in order that the world might be **saved** through him.” **God wanted us to live**

**and thrive. He sent his son because he thought we were wonderful. He thinks we are awesome.**

He knows that we are not perfect. He wants us to enjoy this amazing life he has given us.

### **Who are your role models?**

My grandmother was a pretty amazing woman. Her name was Berta. Dust and dirt and wind and tornadoes and drought were never the things that Berta talked about. Why complain about things that you can't change, would have probably been something she would have said. She didn't spend hours talking about how she had been widowed with 2 teenage daughters. When my mother's sister became a widow with 2 toddlers, my grandmother was there to help raise them.

She belonged to the Methodist Church every where she lived. And that is one of the first things I did when we moved, was find a church. Every morning she was grateful to see the sunshine and the blue sky; just like the song in the musical Oklahoma. Oh what a beautiful morning! Oh what a beautiful day! She didn't have a lot of money, but she always looked clean and smiled.

I always knew bad things could happen and hard work was just part of life. She never sugar coated things and she didn't have a Pollyanna attitude either. She made sure that we knew we were suppose to say our prayers and when we went to bed, we remembered to

thank God for another day. We also always ask him to watch over those who were less fortunate than we were. Berta made sure we understood how very lucky we were.

She didn't believe that God rewarded us for our good work, because "work" was what we were suppose to be doing. She also did not believe that God punished us with droughts, tornadoes and viruses because we were bad.

I do not ever remember seeing her talk to someone saying, "I'm sorry (and humbling herself). No, she stood up tall and said, "I think I must have forgotten to do this ...". She knew she wasn't perfect, but she did not consider herself a second class citizen or a weakling.

It was just that simple....

She believed she was loved by God and he was with her everyday. And she made sure we knew God loved us too. Even my little sister who spent a significant amount of time in the principals office.

### **Who Shaped the way you see Death?**

I have thought a lot about death this week. My husband was in the hospital, the Coronavirus continues to spread and the terrible tornado in Nashville, where my husband's family lives. I think we were more exposed to death in the old days. There were always plenty of funerals to go to and everybody went to the cemeteries. Death

was part of the story and no one in our family or church tried to pretend it wasn't going to happen to all of us someday.

Watching the stories about the Tornado in Nashville this week brought back so many memories. Tornado's really are a part of everybody's life back there. If it didn't hit your house, you hopped in the car to go find out who needed help. I would just like to share one memory. We were at my Aunt Pluma's house. She was one of my grandmother's sisters. Of course, she was a widow too. She raised chickens and sold eggs in town. We were there for lunch. My sister and I were there for the jello. She made to best jello salads. It was purple with thick cream cheese and blueberry pie filling. Somebody was getting it out of the ice box, when my uncle yelled, "Everybody get in the room." The room was between the kitchen, the hall and the bathroom. It meant a tornado was coming. And sure enough, it took out the whole east wall of the kitchen and the roof. My grandmother started giving orders; Carl go check on the chickens. Carole go check the front of the house. When we were all back in the house she said, "We might as well eat the jello, because the electricity is out!" Now jello salads, that is a lost art!

**Do you ever have a time when you are having trouble feeling God or knowing that he is there with you?**

That's why I started today's lectionary with John 3: 8 "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes."

All I have to do is go outside and feel the wind. I know that God is there.

**Word of the day: flossum**

A person who has flaws and is awesome. You may not be able to find this word in Webster's Dictionary. I got it from Tyra Banks was sharing it with Steven Colbert.

Are you flossum? I know I am. Can you help me conjugate "flossum"?

**Everybody:**

I am flossum

We are flossum

You are flossum

You are flossum

She / he is flossum

They are flossum.

I ain't Gonna Paint No More! By Karen Beaumont, illustrated by David Catrow

**Has everyone gotten the message that God loves them ?**

No, I do not think everyone has gotten the message that they are loved and they are flossum.

And God loves them just the way they are!!!

These are scary times. People need to hear that they are loved.

So go out, and paint the world with love and tell everybody they are awesome!

Amen!