



SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:1-3: **see the love.** Text updates: 4 weeks of prayer. TRC to 252-632-6650

Mark chapter 7 Jesus has an encounter with a man who was deaf. And during this encounter Jesus says something interesting to him...

### Mark 7:32-35

<sup>32</sup>There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

<sup>33</sup>After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's

tongue. <sup>34</sup>He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "**Be opened!**"). <sup>35</sup>At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

Jesus says to the deaf man, "Ephphatha!" Which means "be opened!" And the man could hear. The word "open" in the Greek is the word...

**ἀνοίγω**, an-oy'-go; to open up (literally or figuratively, in various applications):—open.

It's the same word used to describe what happened to the blind man when Jesus healed him and he could see in John 9.

### **John 9:8-11**

<sup>8</sup>His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"

<sup>9</sup>Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

<sup>10</sup>"**How then were your eyes opened?**" they asked.

<sup>11</sup>He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

Jesus says to the deaf man, "Ephphatha!" Which means "be opened" then the friends of the blind man ask, "how were your eyes opened?"

That's my prayer for us this morning, "Ephphatha" that our eyes, our ears, our hearts would "be opened."

That we might SEE, really **SEE the LOVE** that God has for us.

## See the Love.

### **1 John 3:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

<sup>2</sup>Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

SEE THE LOVE that the Father has for us.

## The kind of love.

### **1 John 3:1**

<sup>1</sup>See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

### **Great love.**

*"See what Great love...."*

This isn't some commonplace love that God has for us, it is a "great love!"

Jeremiah writes...

### **Lamentations 3:22-23**

<sup>22</sup>Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. <sup>23</sup>They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Do you ever feel overwhelmed or consumed by life? Jeremiah says, "His compassions never fail."

God's love for us is great. And He is faithful.

## Unmerited love.

### 1 John 3:1

<sup>1</sup>See what great love **the Father has lavished on us**, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

*"... the Father has lavished on us..."*

There is a sense in this passage that God has been more than good to us.

He has created us. He has given us life. Then He gave us NEW LIFE through Jesus.

Have you ever received a gift that was lavish? I have received many gifts from Bonnie that I wasn't expecting.

Things that I didn't even know that she knew that I wanted. It feels good for someone to know you so well that they get you exactly what you were hoping you would get.

Sometimes in the ministry people are generous to me. Like I have to be careful what I talk about because stuff will just show up at the office. (Oreos. Swiss Cake Rolls. Sour Patch Kids candy.)

I have been taken to places. Played golf in places I would not have been able to afford. Been asked to go on trips.

But none of that compares to how much God has loved me and has given to me.

**Psalm 8:3-4**

<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup>what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

When I think of how much God loves me, I can get a little overwhelmed. When I think of the power and

John says...

**1 John 3:1**

<sup>1</sup>See what **great** love the Father has **lavished** on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

But God's love is not only great and unmerited but it is also....

## The life-changing love.

**1 John 3:2**

<sup>2</sup>Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

## Children of God.

Twice in verses one and two, John mentions that we are now *"children of God."* Verse one he reemphasizes it by saying, *"and that's what we are!"*

It's almost like John can't really get his head around this idea. Remember when Jesus blew Nicodemus' mind when he said you had to be born again?

### **John 3:4-5**

<sup>4</sup>"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

Throughout John's letter he presses in on this idea that we are now born again into God's family.

### **1 John 4:7b**

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

### **1 John 5:1a**

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God

God's love is a life-changing love. We are now a part of God's family, adopted as children.

Paul leans in on this same promise...

**Galatians 3:26-27**

<sup>26</sup>So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,  
<sup>27</sup>for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

This is life-changing! Now we are children of God!  
Now we are clothed with Christ. We no longer belong to this world!

And not only are we adopted into God's family, we are also promised that we will be like Jesus.

**1 John 3:2**

<sup>2</sup>Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. **But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.**

If Jesus is God's son and we are adopted into God's family as children, then we will have similarities to Christ when we see him.

Life-change is a continual process until we see Christ face-to-face.

Our lives should progressively reveal God to this world until we see Jesus face-to-face.

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

<sup>18</sup>And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate *(or reflect)* the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with

ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

We are royal children of God. Adopted with the full benefits of children.

## Transforming love.

### 1 John 3:3

<sup>3</sup>All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The purification process is an on-going process. We are made pure through Christ and we are constantly being purified or transformed by the work of the Spirit in our lives.

John writes “this hope” which obviously is referring to the hope that we will be changed and will be like him. It is a hope that is in him.

Jesus was pure and stressed purity. This would be in contradiction to the Gnostics who denied sin.

Purity does not come to Christians through anything the Christian is or has done, but only through what Jesus has done for us.

So we are to be transformed more and more into the image of Christ.

We are not perfect, but we should be perfecting.



The Greek word for "purify" is hagnizo {hag-nid'-zo} which means "to make clean, i.e. (fig.) sanctify"

It is closely related to the word for "holiness", which in Greek is hagniasmos, {hag-ee-as-mos'}, meaning "holiness, sanctification"

It therefore involves the idea of being "set apart" for a holy purpose, which Christians are taught to pursue

When we become Christians we are set apart for God's purpose. It's transformative. There are changes that happen, we are different.

"Ephphatha." Are your eyes open to see the love that God has for us?

It is a GREAT and UNMERITED love.

A LIFE-CHANGING love.

A TRANSFORMING love.

I love the words to the last verse of that Hymn we sang earlier.

## SGL Questions

1. What is the one thing that you are eccentric about? (Coffee, food, shoes, etc.)
2. Read 1 John 3:1 - to you, what does it mean to be called a child of God?
3. The dictionary defines lavish as: *bestow something in generous or extravagant quantities on*. Is this an adequate description of the love God has for us? If not, how would you describe it?
4. What is "unmerited love"?
5. Read Psalm 8:3-4 - what does this passage tell us about God's love for us?
6. A life in Jesus is a transformative life. What does it mean to be clothed with Christ? What is our response to this?
7. Read 1 Peter 1: 15-16: What does it mean to be made Holy and to live a holy life?
8. If we are set apart, or purposed, what are we purposed for? What does that life look like?
  
9. Pray for your group, that our eyes and hearts would be open.







### Last verse...

G C D7 G  
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
C G A D  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
D7 G G Am7  
Strength for today and bright hope for  
tomorrow  
C G D D7 G  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

### [CHORUS]

D G  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
E Am  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
D7 G D/F# A D  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
D7 G G Am7  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
C G D D7 G  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

### Goodness of God

#### [Chorus]

C G  
All my life you have been faithful  
C G D  
All my life you have been so, so good  
C G D/F# Em  
With every breath that I am able  
C D G  
I will sing of the goodness of God

#### [Bridge]

G/B C  
Your goodness is running after,  
D G  
It's running after me  
G/B C  
Your goodness is running after,  
D G  
It's running after me  
G/B C  
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now  
D Em  
I give you everything  
G C  
Your goodness is running after,  
D G  
It's running after me