

## May 31, 2015 “How the ‘Trinity’ Enlightens Us”

- **St. Augustine – Pouring the ocean into a seashell** – How can your small, limited mind understand the mystery of the eternal, infinite triune God!
- Tough Sunday for preachers to explain how the one God comes in the presence of Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Have used analogies, metaphors, and similes – 3 forms of water, functions of individual person, but mysteries remain – who was Jesus speaking to in prayer, why did Spirit wait until after ascension?
- **Today’s Gospel** – Nicodemus comes seeking understanding, get confused between spiritual and physical birth, use of ‘spirit’ and ‘wind’ from the same word ‘ruah’. Ultimately asks, “How can this be?”

Nic, at first, assumes that ‘he knows’, but what does he really know? We know much as modern folk.

- We may think that God can be understood, explained, investigated, and questioned. We know that God is love, all powerful, all knowing, eternal. Learned how God works, what God wants, but the more we know, the less we understand.
- **Chemistry professor:** freshmen know it all, but fail to realize there’s more. Sophomore translates “a wise fool.” Bible studiers who meet weekly realize there’s more than we think in each text.
- **Our God is large, living and uncontainable.** Can’t limit. Church is also like that – who would have guessed that our small church would have a successful food pantry, quilts given away to area hospitals, a choir of 10-15 every Sunday, or that the world wide church sponsors ministries to refugees, sick people, victims of war and natural disaster around the world.
- God is there for the unexpected, the surprises, the jolts and shocks of life. God brings light and understanding, helping us to deal with the twists of life.

- We are challenged not so much to know as to be known; not to understand, but to live under the truth of a God who loves us in spite of our ignorance and shortcomings.
- **Trip of wealthy father and son to poor family farm.** One dog, pool, electric lights, patio; but they had 4 dogs, an endless creek, stars in the sky, a whole horizon. Son thanked father for showing how poor they were.
  
- Nic couldn't understand the poverty of his soul until Jesus showed him what he was missing. But even then, he had a hard time accepting it. So, don't get caught up in the doctrine, just remember that God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life. Amen.