

Second Sunday of Lent - Unarmed “Love Without Leverage”

John 3:1-17

Grace doesn't come with leverage it comes with surrender.

Welcome To The First Sunday of Lent

The season of Lent offers us a time to consider how best to identify with Jesus during the forty days from the Cross to Easter. This series will teach us what it means to face injustice, evil, and suffering by laying down everything but love.

Today, we are going to be studying a passage from John's Gospel that contains one of the most famous verses in the Bible, as we learn what it means to surrender to the transforming power of the Spirit.

GRACE DOESN'T COME WITH LEVERAGE, IT COMES WITH SURRENDER.

John 3:1-17

- Nicodemus and the Pharisees—something is definitely going on.*
- He's smart enough to know that Jesus is using metaphors.*
- Jesus reframes the conversation into an introspective one.*
- It doesn't matter how much you do; grace only comes with surrender.*
- The image of Moses and the serpent speaks to surrender and trust.*

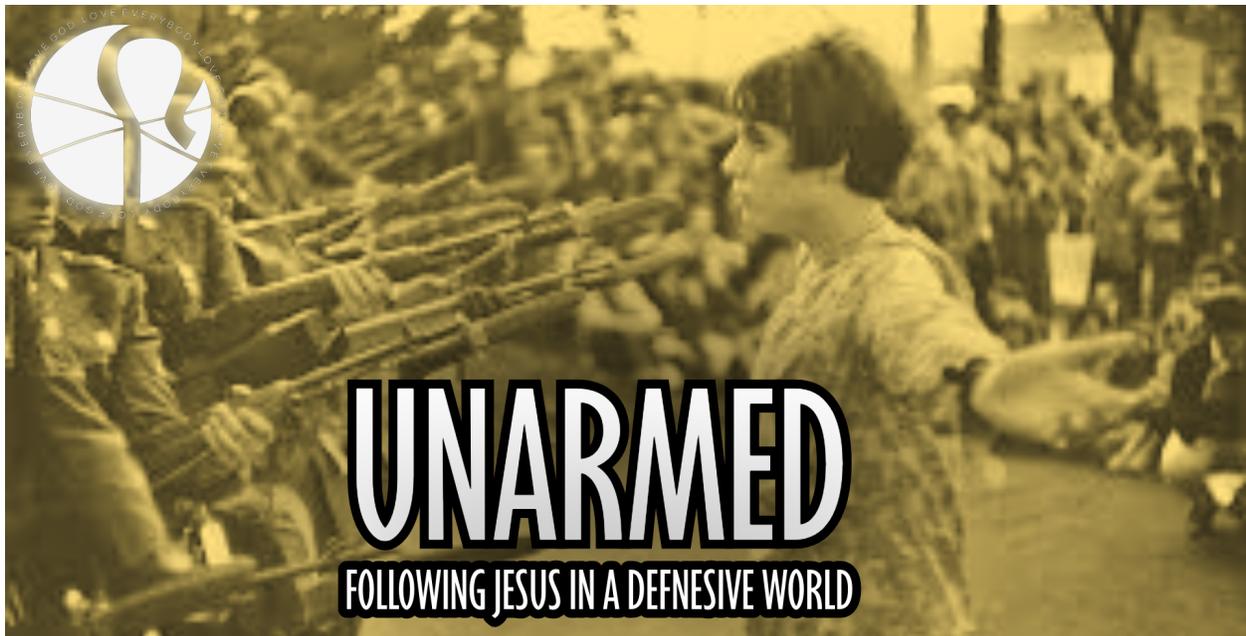
We can't leverage our own ideas of what it means to follow Jesus as a means of grace; we simply have to surrender them and follow.

When we are willing to lay down our arms and armor, we create space for the Spirit to move and work within us and without us.

Some Important Questions

- 1. What makes us work so hard to be deserving of grace?*
- 2. How might working on your own inner life be transformative?*
- 3. What would it mean for the world if we got this?*

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SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

Wondrous Encounters: Scripture for Lent

Richard Rohr

Show Me The Way

Henri Nouwen

A Way Other Than Our Own

Walter Brueggeman

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