

The Demonstration of God's Love for the World

John 3:16-21

July 17, 2022

Introduction:

1. After challenging the entire Jewish religious system in the cleansing of the temple, Jesus challenged the very foundation of the Jewish religion in answering Nicodemus's challenge of His authority.
2. Nicodemus embodies the brokenness of man and his religion.
3. As we will see from the text, the interaction between Nicodemus and Jesus is part of the larger conflict between Jesus and the religious authorities, and ultimately between God and humanity.
4. Based on the vocabulary being used, it appears that verse 16 begins the narrator's comments; "only begotten Son" is only used by John (1:14, 18; 1 John 4:9), and Jesus usually refers to God as "Father."

Message:

1. The motivation behind the words and actions of Jesus is God's love for the world (16a).
 - a. In contrast to Jesus' actions in purifying the temple, the motivation for Jesus's words and actions was God's love for the world, not His hatred of it.
 - i. God loves the world.
 - ii. God loves every sinner.
 - b. God demonstrated the extent of His love by offering His Son as payment for you and me.
 - i. Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
 - ii. Before God told us He loved us, He showed us, by giving His Son for us!
2. The provision offered is eternal life (16b).
 - a. Those who do not believe in Jesus will perish, because the penalty for sin is death.
 - i. Gen. 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."
 - ii. Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."
 - iii. Revelation 21:8 "...and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."
 - b. Those who do believe in Jesus will receive eternal life.
 - i. To believe in Jesus, you must admit that you are a sinner.
 1. Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."
 - ii. To believe in Jesus, you must admit that you are separated from God and worthy of His wrath.
 1. Sin against an infinite God demands an infinite punishment.
 2. God sent His Son to die in our place, because only the infinite Son of God could pay the infinite penalty the world deserves to pay.
 - iii. To believe in Jesus, you must choose to depend on Jesus to do all the saving.
 1. Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, Not of works lest any man should boast."
 2. Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost."
3. The reason that Jesus was sent was not to condemn (17).
 - a. All men already stand condemned before God (17a).
 - i. Isa 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."
 - ii. Romans 3:20 "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."
 - b. The reason that Jesus was sent to save (17b)!

4. The reason Jesus came was to offer justification (18).
 - a. Those who believe are declared righteous.
 - i. 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"
 - ii. Romans 3:28 "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.
 - b. Those who believe in the name (the person and work) of the unique Son of God are justified.
 - i. Romans 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - ii. 1 Peter 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye are healed."
5. The verdict upon mankind (19-21)
 - a. Men love darkness rather than the Light because they are evil (19).
 - i. Our first response to the Light is to turn away, because it exposes our sin.
 - ii. We naturally love darkness, and turn from the light.
 - b. Those who do evil hate the Light, because they don't want their sin to be exposed (20).
 - i. Before being justified, God is your Judge.
 - ii. Before being justified, the light of God's Word exposes our sinfulness, so we are afraid to investigate it too closely.
 - c. Those who do the truth by believing in the person and work of Jesus can step into the light boldly, because the Light reveals the work of God in them (21).
 - i. After being justified, God becomes our Father.
 - ii. After being justified, the light of God's Word assures us of our new relationship with our Heavenly Father.
 - iii. Romans 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Conclusion:

1. Have you come to the realization that your religion is incapable of earning you an entrance into the kingdom of God?
2. Have you come to the realization that you need to be born again spiritually?
3. Have you realized that without Christ, you stand condemned before God?
4. What are you looking to for deliverance? Are you believing in your own efforts, or are you believing in Jesus to save you from the wrath of God?
5. Are you sharing this message with the lost world around you?