



Sunday, October 4, 2020

Paul Borthwick

Intro to John 3:16

Once again, we're confronted with glorious truths from a familiar passage of Scripture. The depths of God's word are truly amazing! For many of us, John 3:16 is a verse that we memorized as children. For others, perhaps you heard it as part of a conversation where someone witnessed to you. For others, perhaps you're more familiar with it from signs and billboards. However you have come across this verse, its truth remains powerful to challenge our hearts to deeper gratitude and faithfulness to God.

On Sunday, Paul Borthwick challenged us to consider the heart of God in this verse—that He has been pursuing His sinful creatures ever since the Fall in the Garden of Eden. Our God is a pursuing God. He moves towards us in love. This is most clearly seen in Jesus who was sent by the Father, a fact that is repeated over and over again in the Gospel of John. So, God Himself moves towards us in Jesus to dwell among us and suffer and die on our behalf. As we consider God's heart toward us and His pursuit of us, we will have a clearer understanding of what He has sent us to do. He has called us to live among those that are difficult to love and to offer our bodies and our resources in order to pursue them for the sake of Christ.

Context

This verse comes on the heels of Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus. In that conversation, Jesus talks about how people must be born again in order to see and to enter the kingdom of God. The only way someone can be born again is by the work of the Holy Spirit. So, right in the context, we see that God is the One who is pursuing humanity to bring us to Himself. As the passage continues, Jesus talks about how the Son of Man has come to be lifted up like the serpent in the wilderness. So, once again, God pursues His people by sending His Son so that we might live.

Discuss

- 1) How has God pursued you in your life? Who were the people, events, tools that God used to introduce you to Christ?
- 2) Do you consider yourself sent by God into your family, workplace, neighborhood, etc.? What does that look like?
- 3) What are some of the obstacles you face when it comes to loving others and pursuing others as Christ loves and pursues us?
- 4) How do you get to a place where you're willing to make the necessary sacrifices to take the gospel to the people to whom you have been sent?
- 5) In what ways do you think God is calling you to make sacrifices in light of the message we heard on Sunday?