



# the greatest gift



A Series on John 3:16

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# For God So Loved the World

Sermon Text: John 3:16

## I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Share what you love about the Christmas season.
- b. Share a story about your favorite Christmas gift.
- c. Acknowledge that not everyone has fond memories of Christmas, and that, for some, this is a time of sadness and loneliness.
- d. However, this is a time where all of us, whether we have fond memories or not, can find hope. This series is about that hope and our response to it. And it all starts with two words, "For God."
- e. Provide the context of John 3:16 by summarizing John 3:1-15.

## II. READ SERMON TEXT (3:16)

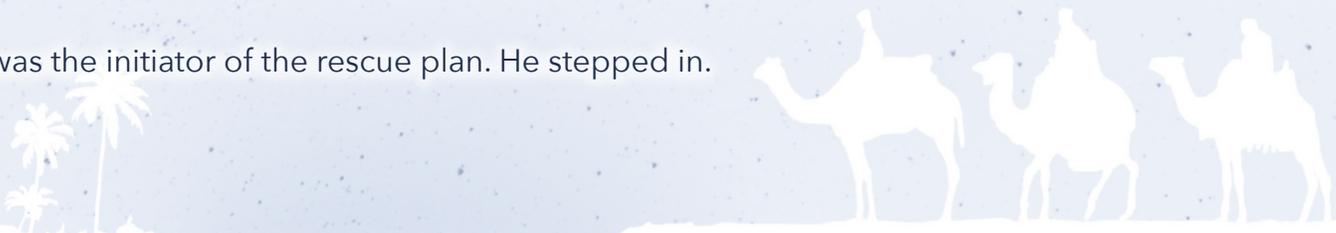
Note: NIV used unless indicated otherwise.

## III. POINT 1: "For God so loved the world" means that humans were facing a problem that only God could solve.

- a. The word "For" connects back to verses 1 and 15. It tell us why Jesus must suffer.
- b. We have a problem. We cannot see the Kingdom unless we are born again. This was especially important for Nicodemus, who would have thought that his first birth as a Jew was sufficient (3:3).
- c. We are sinful and in need of a Savior.

## IV. POINT 2: "For God so loved the world" means that it was His decision to initiate the rescue plan.

- a. God has been in control since the beginning of time (Genesis 1:1). He has been in control the whole time and this is no different. This was not a last resort. This was the only way and was part of His plan, as evidenced in Genesis 3:15.
- b. God was the initiator of the rescue plan. He stepped in.



**V. POINT 3: "For God so loved the world" means that His undeserved love for us was His motivation.**

- a. We did not do anything to earn his love. His love occurred before our belief.
- b. This is not a superficial type of love. It is a deep, costly love.
- c. God's love is not in words only. God's love is the type of love from which action flows.

**VI. POINT 4: "For God so loved the world" should motivate us to undeservingly love others as we have been undeservingly loved.**

- a. Luke 7:36-50, specifically 7:47.
- b. What does it look like for us to undeservingly love others?
- c. How can we love others with our time, talents, and treasure this Christmas season?
- d. Provide opportunities to undeservingly love others through the church this December, including giving options.

**VII. CONCLUSION**

- a. We are undeservingly love. This should motivate us to love others.
- b. Consider you time, talent, and treasures. How will you reflect the undeserving love God has given us to others this Christmas?



# That He Gave His One and Only Son

Sermon Text: John 3:16

## I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Tell an inspiring story about how God used your church to make an eternal difference in someone's life. Connect the church's generosity to that story.
- b. As Christians, we are called to sacrifice for the sake of advancing God's Kingdom. And God doesn't just tell us to do this—He did it.

## II. REVIEW PRIOR SERMON

## III. READ SERMON TEXT (John 3:16)

## IV. POINT 1: "That He gave his one and only Son" means that Jesus was the answer for our sin problem.

- a. Read and summarize Numbers 21: 4-8.
- b. Looking back at verses John 14-15, Jesus was the one who MUST be lifted up. He was the answer.

## V. POINT 2: "That He gave his one and only Son" means that God provided not just a gift, but a sacrifice.

- a. Reminds us of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac (Gen 22:2).
- b. Most people give out of abundance, their leftovers. This is not sacrificial.
- c. As believers, we are to give sacrificially.

## VI. POINT 3: "That He gave his one and only Son" should cause us to reconsider what real generosity looks like.

- a. We are to make giving a priority (Proverbs 3:9). God demonstrates this by giving His one and only, His first and best—Jesus.
- b. We are to give sacrificially. God demonstrates this through the sacrifice of Jesus.
- c. We are to give cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7). God demonstrates this in Isaiah 53:10 (CSB). He was "pleased" with the sacrifice of Jesus because He saw the eternal outcome.
- d. We give to impact eternity.

## VII. CONCLUSION

a. What we do in this life will have an eternal impact. Our generosity will echo throughout all eternity.

b. "Giving is a giant lever positioned on the fulcrum of this world, allowing us to move mountains in the next world. Because we give, eternity will be different - for others and for us." - Randy Alcorn

c. Explain how giving to the church makes an eternal difference. Provide next steps for how they can give this Christmas season.



# That Whoever Believes in Him Shall Not Perish But Have Eternal Life

Sermon Text: John 3:16

## I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Tell the story of the Fall, when death is introduced into the world (Genesis 3:1-13).
- b. Remind everyone of the promise God gave to Satan, "...he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel (Genesis 3:15)."
- c. Christmas reminds us that God made good on His promise.

## II. REVIEW PRIOR SERMON

## III. READ SERMON TEXT (John 3:16)

### III. POINT 1: "That whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" means that Jesus was God.

- a. Mark 2:1-12.
- b. Where we see a baby in a manger, the angels see this—Revelation 1:12-15.

### IV. POINT 2: "That whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" means that Jesus came to fulfill the promise.

- a. "Shall not perish but have eternal life" is a statement of victory over the curse.
- b. "Shall not perish but have eternal life" is a promise to you and me.

### V. POINT 3: "That whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" means that eternal life hinges on accepting God's gift.

- a. A gift does not become yours until you take hold of it and accept it.
- b. Discuss how someone can become a follower of Christ today.



**VI. Point 4: "That whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" should move us to ensure that everyone has a chance to hear about God's gift.**

- a. Romans 10:14-15
- b. We generously use all of our resources to get the Gospel to everyone in our community and around the world.
- c. Giving to your church is more than just moving money from one bank account to the next. It is an act of war against the world's darkness.
- d. Provide examples of lives impacted through the church's ministry.

**VII. CONCLUSION**

- a. Have you accepted God's gift? If not, I urge you to do so today.
- b. If you have already accepted God's gift, let's make sure that everyone in our community has had the chance to accept it as well. Let's tell others and give generously so that we may be a part of advancing God's Kingdom.





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