

SERMON DATE: March 7, 2021

SERMON SERIES: Giving Back to the One Who Gave

SERMON TITLE: The Father Who Gave His Best

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

If you have watched an NFL football game on television recently, you may have observed someone holding up a sign with 3:16 on it. Without proper context and given the environment in which the sign is presented, you may assume that the sign is related in some way to the game or either or both teams on the field. However, this sign is a reference or inference to a Father and Son, who are not fans seated in the stands, but who are offering something far more significant than free season tickets...a gift with eternal implications.

INTRODUCTION

We value things that are unique and “rare”. When trying to express this valuation, we use phrases like “one of a kind”, “the only one in existence”, or “the one and only.” An example of this is seen in rare paintings. In November 2017, Leonardo da Vinci’s painting *Salvator Mundi* sold for, what stands as a record amount, over \$450 million. But, even at this extraordinary amount, it is not the most valued painting in existence. Da

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Vinci's *Mona Lisa* is considered priceless but is valued at over \$850 million. The reality is that rare and unique items like these are not given but are coveted and desired to be possessed and retained once possessed. However, we will explore today how God the Father, motivated by love, gave His priceless most valued "one of a kind" possession His son Jesus Christ for mankind.

In My Opinion - John 3:16 is the most profound of all Scripture; it is the plan that God has been executing since the fall a man in the Garden of Eden explicitly revealed.

Point #1 - The Father's Divine Nature

Two Attributes:

When we talk about the attributes of God, we are trying to answer questions like, *Who is God, What is God like, and What kind of God is he?* An attribute of God is something true about him.

Love and Give

God is Love - 1 John 4:8 & 16

Love is His essence, His nature, His substance, not merely something he demonstrates.

God loved, *He gave*

*For God so loved the world that He **gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Note #1: When God declared that He loved the world, He demonstrated.

Love Motivated the Gift

Note #2: We are partakers of this divine nature.

Loving and giving is a part of the divine nature of God we inherit when born again.

2 Peter 1:2-4 - *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who*

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*called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you **may be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Point #2 - The Priceless Gift

Mastercard Priceless Commercials

Baseball Game - 1997

Father and son entering turnstile – “two tickets \$28”

Father and son at concession stand – “two hot dogs, two popcorns, two sodas \$18”

Father and son walking up stairs to seats – “one autographed baseball \$45”

Father and son seated next to each other – “real conversation with 11-year-old son, priceless.”

Screen fades to black - “there are some things money can't buy; but, for everything else, there is Mastercard”

The Father Loves the Son –

John 3:35 - *The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His*

John 5:20 - *For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.*

The Only Begotten Son – “one of a kind”, “the only one in existence”, “the one and only.”

Begotten – of or out of (only one)

Adopted – brought in (many through the one)

The Father Truly Gave His Best!

Point #3 - Price of Priceless

¹⁷ *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world **through Him might be saved**.*

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Mark 8:31 - *And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

Philippians 2:5-8 - *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*