



Like No Other: The Life of Christ Theme Based Sermon Outline

Session 5: Tell Me the Story of Jesus **Sermon Text: John 3:16**

Connection to Unit Theme: To complement the small group study of Like No Other, based on the life of Christ, these sermon outlines will use different Scripture passages to reinforce the same themes regarding Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection, so the pastor can reinforce the study from the pulpit, focusing on the same topic, but using different Scripture.

This sermon outline is based on what is perhaps the most-loved verse in all of the bible. Instead of giving a detailed account of the events of Jesus' horrific death on a Roman cross, this message focuses instead on God's supreme act of love in giving His Son as the payment for our sins. Jesus literally became "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23) for us.

Introduction: Sammy was a young boy who loved to fish. Just about every summer day Sammy would dig up some worms, grab his pole, and head to a nearby pond to fish. One day while digging for bait Sammy found some especially wiggly and fat worms. He thought they would be great to entice the fish, so he filled his bait can and set off. Sure enough, after baiting his hook and casting his line in to the water, he caught a large fish. Sammy was having too much fun catching fish after fish to notice a stinging sensation in his hand. Finally, after catching eight fish, all his stringer could hold, Sammy set off for home. A local sheriff's deputy saw him walking up the road with his catch and stopped to chat. The officer got out of his car when he saw Sammy's arms, red and swollen. When he inquired how Sammy had caught so many fish, Sammy showed the officer his extra wiggly bait. At once the officer grabbed Sammy, threw him into his car, and raced into town to the local hospital. Sadly by the time they arrived at the hospital, Sammy was already dead. Sammy had unknowingly been fishing with baby rattlesnakes. Sin is like that. Without us realizing it, it poisons us unto death, and we have only a limited time to get access to the antidote.

Jesus' Death is:

I. The Story of Love

Our text verse says that "God so loved..." 'So' – indicates the incalculable measure of God's love. When you can't calculate it, or adequately describe it, you just have to say God loves us "so" much. God loves every person He has ever created. God loves "the world" of humanity. No one is left out.

- *"But God, who is abundant in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, made us alive with the Messiah even though we were dead in trespasses."* Ephesians 2:4-5 (HCSB)

- *“Look at how great a love the Father has given us, that we should be called God’s children. And we are!” 1 John 3:1 (HCSB)*

II. The Story of Provision

“He gave...” You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. “His only begotten Son...”

- *“He did not even spare His own Son, but offered Him up for us all; how will He not also with Him grant us everything?” Romans 8:32 (HCSB)*
- *“For God so loved the world that He GAVE His only begotten Son...” John 3:16*
New Testament writers repeatedly used the Greek word 'hyper' to describe God giving His Son for us. 'Hyper' means "in place of".

1. *"Christ died for (hyper) our sins..." 1 Corinthians 15:3 (NKJV)*
2. *"Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for (hyper) our sins..." Galatians 1:4 (NKJV)*
3. *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for (hyper) the sheep." John 10:11 (NKJV)*
4. *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for (hyper) his friends." John 15:13 (NKJV)*
5. *"And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, This is My body which is given for (hyper) you; do this in remembrance of Me. Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for (hyper) you." Luke 22:19-20 (NKJV)*

Jesus was our substitute = "The wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23. Someone has to die to satisfy God's righteous judgment against sin; you or a substitute. Jesus was and is fully God, possessing all the attributes of God, all the authority of God. Only He had no sin of His own, therefore He could become a substitute to die in our place. God demonstrated his acceptance of Jesus being our substitute, dying to pay for our sin, by raising Him from the dead. Jesus died to be the substitute payment for our sin. Jesus now lives to be our Master, working to keep us from sin.

III. A Story That Requires a Response

“Whoever believes in Him...” ‘Believe’ here is to trust completely, to stake one’s life upon. Submission leads to salvation. We cannot hear of God’s great gift, and of the sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf, without responding. We are not allowed to remain neutral.

We either choose to reject all that God done through His Son, ignore it, and act as if it doesn’t matter to us. Or, we choose to believe it, to accept it as God’s gift of love to us, and in response to such a gift, pledge to Jesus our allegiance.

Closing: Regarding sin, one observed:

Man calls it an accident, God calls it an abomination

Man calls it a blunder, God calls it a blindness

Man calls it a defect, God calls it a disease
Man calls it chance, God calls it a choice
Man calls it an error, God calls it enmity
Man calls it fascination, God calls it fatality
Man calls it an infirmity, God calls it iniquity
Man calls it luxury, God calls it leprosy
Man calls it liberty, God calls it lawlessness
Man calls it a trifle, God calls it a tragedy
Man calls it a mistake, God calls it madness
Man calls it a weakness, God calls it willfulness

Sin is not so easily explained away. It is the vileness of the human heart that separates us from the God who created us, loves us, and did everything to remove from us the power and penalty of sin. God would not have made such an incredible sacrifice to deal with human sin, if it were not necessary. Have you considered the horrific death of Jesus Christ upon a Roman cross? Have you wondered why anyone would suffer such an excruciating and humiliating death? Because of love!

Tell of the cross where they nailed Him,
Writhing in anguish and pain;
Tell of the grave where they laid Him,
Tell how He liveth again.
Love in that story so tender,
Clearer than ever I see;
Stay, let me weep while you whisper,
“Love paid the ransom for me.”

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

Words by Fanny J. Crosby

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Tell_Me_the_Story_of_Jesus/

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