

2021: Having a Servant's Heart

Scripture: John 3:16

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whosoever believes and trusts in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

I. Reflections

A. Wonderful Christmas – servant's mentality

B. New Year's Usuals

1. Resolutions
2. New beginnings
3. New relationships
4. New mentality
5. New work

II. Background (John 3:1-3)

A. Nicodemus's quest to find Jesus (vv. 1-2)

1. Member of the Sanhedrin (v. 1)
2. Secretive and planned (v. 2)

B. Nicodemus's motivation (v. 3)

1. Nicodemus's perspective = unknown for no request or question given (v. 3)
2. Jesus's perspective = addressed his issue (v.3)
 - a. Problem addressed by God – man is spiritually impaired to know the problem.

III. The Act of Service (John 3:16)

A. The Act of Giving (God's Son)

1. Measuring God's love (the world) – *for God so loved the world*
2. The type of gift (His Son) – *that He gave His only begotten Son*

B. The Purpose of Giving (eternal life)

1. Testing the receiver's heart – *for whosoever believes and trusts*
 - a. Understanding (intellectual)
 - b. Know (experiential)
 - c. Live (present)
 - d. being committed (determination)

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2. Reward: God – *in Him shall not perish but have eternal life*

C. Example of Serving

1. Service Rejected (Luke 4:24) – *Then He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country.”*
2. Service Strikes Division (Luke 4:28) – *So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath*
3. Service Accepted (Luke 4:32) – *And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.*

IV. 2021 Individual Propositions

- A. What am I willing to sacrifice to the Lord during this upcoming year?
- B. What is my motivation for sacrificing to the Lord?
- C. Can you handle what God reveals to you?
- D. How can you offer up your service to the Lord?
- E. Are you acting like a true servant of the Lord?