

Sermon Notes

A Closer Look – Your Favorite Verses Explored

July 6-7, 2019

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **A Closer Look: Favorite Verses Explored**

- We are looking at the most quoted verses in the Bible. Are they taken out of context, do they present only part of the truth, or do they really mean what we think they mean?? That is the question!

- **John 3:16**

- This is probably the most known verse in the Bible.

- Why? Because this is a wonderful verse! This one really means what it says. So, let's dig in deeper.

- Context:

- o Jesus' discussion with Nicodemus. (at night, you must be born again, etc.)

- o Pick it up at **John 3:14-21**.

- (v14-15) **Numbers 21:4-9** is something Nicodemus would have been very familiar with.

- The people sinned. They were now receiving second level judgment from God.

- They repented. God made a way. The bronze serpent.

- How theologically complex was the bronze serpent? How complex is the cross?

- If you were bitten by a snake back then, would you look at the bronze serpent?

- If you have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, would you look to Jesus?

- Why don't people? 3 thoughts: Unbelief, Pride, and Fear of Rejection. (**v19-21**)

- It's not complicated, look to Jesus!

- The 4 Parts of **John 3:16**

- o 1) The Motivation. You can trust in the character and the love of God for you!

- o 2) The Offer / Sacrifice. The plan of redemption.

- o 3) The Response. Some will believe, some will not. What about you?

- o 4) The Promise. WOW!! It's like being healed by looking at the snake and then some!

- What are we healed from?

- That is the Good News of the Gospel!

- o If you reject the good news, then comes the bad news. **John 3:18, 3:36**.

- o How many people do you think refused to look at the bronze serpent? Why? What would happen?

- o Why is it so complicated with the cross? (the 3 thoughts from above, and...)

- We have to see Jesus and the cross right.

- Seeing Jesus right. **John 6:35-40**

- o Compare **v36** and **v40**. Seeing and believing vs seeing and not believing.

- Imagine being in the presence of Jesus and not believing. How much harder is it now??

- Despite people's poor representation of the Lord, look to Jesus and believe!!

- Faith involves a choice.

- o There is a place between blind faith and total proof. This is where we are. This is when you choose.

- o The offer has been made. The price has been paid. Now it is time to respond.

- o To the established follower of Jesus, honor and don't forget.

- For everyone else, I ask you to choose to believe.

- o Closing Scripture: **John 3:16**.

- Pray for each other before you finish up!