

GOD'S HEART FOR THE WORLD LIFE GROUP LESSON WEEK 1

GRASPING GOD'S HEART FOR YOU

“For this is how much God loved the world—he gave his one and only; unique Son as a gift. So now everyone who believes in him will never perish but experience everlasting life.

God did not send his Son into the world to judge and condemn the world, but to be its Savior and rescue it! So now there is no longer any condemnation for those who believe in him, but the unbeliever already lives under condemnation because they do not believe in the name of God's beloved Son. And here is the basis for their judgment: The Light of God has now come into the world, but the hearts of people love their darkness more than the Light, because they want the darkness to conceal their evil. So the wicked hate the Light and try to hide from it, for their lives are fully exposed in the Light. But those who love the truth will come out into the Light and welcome its exposure, for the light will reveal that their fruitful works were produced by God.”
(John 3:16-21 TPT)

I. Introduction

- A. This series is about the very core purpose and passion of our church; helping people experience the heart of God so they will take the heart of God to others. The future impact of our church depends not on programs or promotions but on how successful we are in helping people find and discover in them God's heart for other people. As people experience God's heart and show it, God changes the world.
- B. It all starts with helping people have a personal revelation of God's love for them. Christianity is not about religion and rules; it is all about having a supernaturally changed heart. We are transformed by a kiss of grace. When we are forgiven much, we begin to forgive much. When we know we are loved much, we begin to love much.
 - Zacchaeus
 - Woman caught in adultery, who pours out her alabaster jar
 - Prodigal son

II. It is not enough to know about the love of God; we have to believe it to the point of knowing it is completely true by faith.

- A. Many Christians are doubleminded about this. They listen to their feelings, to the accuser, or judge God's feelings about them by their own performance. They are never rooted in God's love for them and are thus defeated. It doesn't matter how awesome God's love is for you, if you don't believe it.
- B. Mary is an example of someone who accepted by faith God's love. She didn't reject the pronouncement saying she was unworthy. She believed. She had what we are all called to have, a “favored mindset.” This made her bold and empowered her to receive and accomplish all God wanted for her.

- C. In the sermon we talked about beliefs of a favored mindset.
1. I am God's treasure. He picks me always, even when I forget to pick Him.
 2. I cannot be condemned. I am eager to come to the light and confess my faults to Him because He immediately and completely cleanses and changes me with His grace.
 3. Love and favor is not just my experience; it is my identity.
 - I'm not just forgiven, I'm favored.
 - I'm not just saved, I'm a son/daughter.
 - I'm not a victim, his love makes me a victor in all things.(Romans 8:31-39)
- D. Holy Spirit is waiting to unveil your heart and give you a revelation of God's love. (Ephesians 3:17-19). Anywhere in your life that there is a lack of confidence, peace, security, and favor is simply because that is a place where there is simply a lack of revelation of how much you are loved. You can ask and expect Holy Spirit to help you receive and walk in Father's love there.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Can you recall a time when you sensed the unconditional love and favor of God in your life? What did that do for you?
2. Have you ever experienced God giving you His heart for someone you might naturally not have liked or cared about?
3. What is an example of a lie Satan has tried to use to keep you from realizing and walking in God's favor?
4. Describe one practical way you would act, speak, or think differently if you had a "I am favored mindset tomorrow?"
5. Exercise for activating our spirit to receive God's love: Take time with a couple of prayer partners speaking God's blessing to and over each other's lives. Let that include words:
 - a. Of high appreciation and esteem
 - b. That personally apply what Jesus did on the cross for them
 - c. That speak of a bright future for their lives in light of what Jesus has done