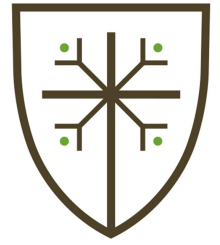


TO CARE & NOT TO CARE

Lent Sermon Series

Art: "Solena" by Dawn Waters Baker

SERMON NOTES



March 10, 2024

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Look and Live"

PREACHER

Rev. Adam Radcliff

TEXTS

Numbers 21:4-9

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. In light of our sermon series title "to care and not to care," how does the fundamental knowledge of the gospel – both bad and good news – help us to order our cares rightly (to care for the things God cares for)?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Adam Radcliff continued our sermon series for Lent with a look at one of the most well-known verses in the Bible, John 3:16 and what it tells us about the gospel.

The Bad News

We come into the middle of Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus in this passage. He tells Nicodemus that in order to be saved, you must be born again. He doesn't say "should be" or "can be" – he says "must be" born again. Just like in last week's passage, we saw Jesus say "The Son of Man must be lifted up." Nicodemus knows the story of the serpents in Leviticus well. It was an important piece of the story of the Israelites in the desert. The people turn from trusting God's goodness to loathing It, believing that he is withholding something better from them. He sends the serpents and immediately, the people realize their sin and turn in repentance to the only one who can take the snakes away. We, like the Israelites, have all sinned. We are all rightly deserving of his wrath and we must be born again in him because there is nothing we can do about it. God must remove the sin for us. So, the bad news is every sin demands his condemnation. We deserve death.

The Good News

The good news is that there is an antivenom more powerful than the poison that infects us. Jesus came in order to take upon himself the wrath our sins demand. And he came not just to take away our sin but to take away its power by rising from the dead. And the beautiful truth of this good news is that God the Father's motivation for this rescue was that he loved us – he loved the world.

The Father loves the Son with an infinite love of which we can never truly know the depths of. If God gave that Son and poured out all his wrath on him, can we not trust him to give us all things necessary for our life and salvation?

The Invitation

The invitation is quite simple. Do you care to know this God with this kind of love? All you have to do is look and live. Look to Jesus and live.