

■ Episode 57 — For God So Loved

Friday Lord's Supper Reflection

Text: John 3:16–17 (CSB)

Episode Summary:

In this Friday Lord's Supper reflection, Matthew Allen opens John 3:16 — perhaps the most familiar verse in the Bible — and slows down long enough to let it land. Using a four-part framework drawn from the text itself, he walks through the Danger (apart from Christ, we are perishing under the wrath of God), the Design (God's love expressed through the gift of his one and only Son), the Duty (ongoing, present-tense belief that connects us to that rescuing love), and the Destiny (eternal life that begins now and never ends). Along the way he traces Jesus' own connection between the bronze serpent in Numbers 21 and the cross, and closes with the story of John Newton — whose near-death experiences finally drove him to look to Christ — and the hymn that captures it all in four lines. A fitting meditation before the Lord's table.

Key Themes:

- The full gospel summarized in a single verse
- The true meaning of “perish” — wrath, separation, and irreversibility
- God's love as a giving love, costly beyond measure
- The Numbers 21 serpent as a foreshadowing of the cross
- Belief as an ongoing condition of the heart, not a one-time decision
- Eternal life as a quality of life, not merely its length

Key Scripture:

“For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” — John 3:16 (CSB)

Takeaway Truth:

The most familiar verse in the Bible is also one of the most complete. Danger, Design, Duty, Destiny — it's all there. God loved. God gave. We believe. We live. Don't let familiarity rob it of its weight.

Application for Today:

Before you come to the table on Sunday, sit with John 3:16 one more time — slowly. Let the danger land. Let the design move you. Make sure belief is the current posture of your heart, not just a past decision. And receive the destiny as the gift it is: life, real life, in him.

Series Focus:

This episode steps outside the weekday Matthew series for the Friday Lord's Supper reflection. These standalone meditations are designed to prepare the congregation for communion on Sunday morning, drawing from passages across the New Testament that illuminate the meaning of the cross and the love behind it.