



Sermon-based Guide Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Week of February 14 *God So Loved*

Scripture: John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (NRSV)

Questions

1. How do you define love?
2. What does it mean that it is Jesus talking in these verses? What does it say about him and what does it say about his relationship to God the Father?
3. Bruner says that in the “giving” of the Son, God has entered into history in that moment and for all time. What does it mean that Jesus entered into history; that the Son came into our world, not as a spiritual abstraction, but as a concrete human and divine expression of God’s sacrificial love?

The verb “gave” is in the aorist, punctiliar, once-and-for-all past tense, signifying not just a mood but a definitive, historical act and deed.

- Dale Bruner
4. If we take to heart the call of John 3:16, we are “believ...ing” in Jesus as an ongoing action. Are you “believing” in Jesus in your daily life? If so, what does that look like; how does it actively manifest itself?
5. In these verses, Jesus is clear that his salvation purpose is for the “world.” How then do we view the world and those who live in the world?

Scripture for Ash Wednesday: Psalm 89:47-49