

## THE GOSPEL IN 25 WORDS

John 3:16

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Of all the sermons preached about the Gospel, of all the tracts printed and handed out about the Gospel, of all the songs and hymns played and sung about the Gospel, all of the words used in all these various ways of presenting the Gospel can be summed up in only 25 words and those words are found in the scripture verse of John 3:16: *"...For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life..."* No thoughts nor writings of any great thinker or writer put together can compare to what these 25 words mean to the human race. There is no one who is proficient enough to explain, to reveal to uncover all that this one verse has to say, therefore it is with deep respect and a feeling of inadequacy this sermon is given.

### I. WE (PEOPLE) MATTER TO GOD

1. God is emotionally concerned about us, every single individual.
2. People have a way of pretending all is well and strut around with swollen egos, and are still very lonely.
3. People feel that there is no one who is really emotionally concerned about them.
4. Satan said to Eve *"...did God REALLY say....?"*
  - Satan was trying to get Eve to believe that God had lied to them and that God didn't really care about them.
  - Eve believed Satan's lie that God didn't really care about them and therefore disobeyed God and sinned.
5. People have been doing the same thing ever since. People don't believe that God really cares about them.

### II. GOD MADE US LIKE WE ARE

1. Nobody ever thinks about how complex they are with tremendous intellectual and spiritual capacities.
  - Science tells us that we use only a small percentage of our brains.
2. People don't think that they matter so they try to find ways to cause others to remember them when they are gone.
3. Today's world does not think of people as individuals but as a mass of humanity and individuals just don't count or matter.
4. Individuals don't mean anything anymore, it's organizations, states, governments, nations, countries.

### III. GOD DEALS WITH US ONE BY ONE, AS INDIVIDUALS

1. YOU, ME, US, we are individuals and matter to God, one by one.
  - When Jesus was here on earth, He always called people, one at a time to follow Him.
  - When Jesus preached to the multitudes, it was not as if they were a faceless crowd, but as individuals, knowing the thoughts and needs of each person in that crowd.
2. Individuals mattered to Jesus.
  - The woman taken in adultery was accused before Him, but He lifted her gently to her feet and told her that she was forgiven and go and don't do that anymore.

- Jesus called little children to Him and blessed them, one by one, reminding everyone that the Kingdom of Heaven belonged to those like the little children.
- 3. God does love the crowds, the masses, the throngs, but to Him, they are made up of individuals and God knows every individual in the world.
  - What would happen if people began to realize that God actually loves them, individually and is vitally concerned for them, personally, privately and as if they were the only one?
  - Sadly many think of God's love is only for the HUMAN RACE, but not for individuals.
- 4. Think about that homeless person living under the bridge, no home, no job, no money, eating what he can find, no clothes other than what he has on. Does he not have thoughts and memories of his boyhood days, about those who loved him and cared for him?
  - Now he is told to leave, to go away and go find somewhere else to sleep and scraps to eat.
  - Does God love that kind of an individual? Is God emotionally concerned for him? Of course!
    - God is not happy because the man is like he is and knows everything about this man, but He loves him just as he is. This old street man means something to God.
- 5. YOU, ME, US, every single individual, person matters to the living and loving God.

#### IV. GOD HAS PLANS FOR EVERY SINGLE PERSON

1. What a message for every single individual.
  - Those who feel they are failures.
  - Those who feel lonely and neglected and that nobody cares for them.
  - Those who have drifted away from God after once being close to Him.
  - Those who are addicts of crime, drugs, immorality, self-gratification.
2. Nothing with God has changed.
  - Grace and mercy are still flowing to every single person.
  - God's promises are still available to every one.
  - God may not be happy with a person's situation, but He still loves each and every person and has given His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
3. Do parents abandon their wayward child or do they keep on loving their child but don't like his/her ways? Thus it is so with God.

#### V. EVERY SINGLE PERSON HAS SIGNIFICANCE AND MEANING TO GOD

1. There is not a single human being anywhere who has been "written off" or cast out as being "no good and absolutely hopeless."
2. God has already stated that "*...there is none righteous and that we must be saved and that we will perish if we do not repent...*"
  - There is not a single person who is beyond forgiveness and conversion/being saved.
3. Satan has people believing that they have sinned, lied, failed, broken promises and are no good, therefore God will have nothing to do with them.
4. Nowhere has God said that we must make ourselves morally good and meet certain standards before He will become interested in us. God knows us every one, very well and still He loves us.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Every person can turn to God, confessing his/her great need and thank God for revealing His love and concern for every one through His Son, Jesus Christ.
2. Our faith comes by our hearing and that faith becomes as God wants it as we pray and talk with God.
3. God has done everything to make it as simple for us as He can, we come into the arms of God by FAITH.
  - We come to God for the first time as a sinner, for forgiveness and salvation.
  - We come to God again when we have wandered or strayed away.
4. We must come to God with confidence that God knows each and every one of us intimately, our very thoughts and ways and loves us individually as if each of us were His only child.
5. ***"...For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life..."***