

"Oh How I Love Thee"

Jn.3:16; Rm.5:8

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"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

I think one of the greatest tragedies in the world, and that for all times, is rejected love. I know there is some individualized pain between men and woman, and boys and girls that experience rejection but they are only temporary. God's rejected love is consequentially forever.

Let's step back in time for just a moment and pretend with me that we are but a fly on the wall watching God woo the hand and heart of Nicodemus.

Read John 3:1-21

Nicodemus came to Jesus to investigate His authenticity; his heart desperately longing for the Messiah. (the burning desire of all humanity is to be loved) Jesus, knowing the heart of the man, begins by drawing Nicodemus in with a disclaimer: you can not have a relationship with God without undergoing change.

"But can a man undergo such deep change?"; is the question Nicodemus wrestles with and asks.

Jesus' response continues to woo the heart: "you want to have a relationship with God? Then you must let Him make it possible for you to have that relationship. There is no other way."

Nicodemus is drawn in as he tells Jesus: "Explain to me how?" Jesus tells him: "I am here because God loves you and He wants you to know that He can heal the brokenness of your heart if you will trust Me/Us with it. What the Father is going to do with Me, He does for you and for the whole world."

Jesus speaks to the whole world that day in that brief visit with Nicodemus saying that God loves us. God's love is so great that He communicated a warning that still echoes through out the universe: "you can not have a relationship with me as a mere human being but thru my Son Jesus you can undergo the change necessary for you and Me to have fellowship with each other and that relationship will never come to an end. Never!"

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him." (1Jn.4:9)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rm.5:8)

See also: 2Cor.5:19-21; Titus 3:4-7