

4th Sunday of Lent - B

This week we hear JOHN 3:16 Its a famous verse – People hold up JOHN 3:16 under goal posts, and at Soccer games – John 3:16 says:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life”

This verse tells us that THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN JC WILL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

BUT – that is only part of the story

We not only have to BELIEVE IN JC – we also have to FOLLOW HIM

1. Do you know that Jesus never said “Worship Me” -- He said “Follow Me”
Its not enough to worship Jesus
Its not enough to believe JC was the Son of God (The devil believes that)
You have to follow up your belief with ACTION
Yes, anyone who believes in JC will have eternal life BUT part of that belief is practicing your faith – by following Him
2. Here is another pearl tucked away in John 3:16
It is not only about our believing in JC
It is about something that GOD does
“God so loved the world”
Many times we see God as the judge that needs to be pacified
We see God as a God that needs to be persuaded to forgive
JN 3:16 says that God initiates the forgiveness
GOD SENT HIS ONLY SON
He sent His Son WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS
He sent His Son knowing he was to suffer – WHY – because He loves us
The Love of God comes 1st – it is always there
Our God is like the father in the Prodigal Son parable
He is not happy until his wandering child returns
3. Here is something else
JN 3:16 does NOT say “God loves Israel so much He sent His son”
JN 3:16 does NOT say “God loves the Apostles so much He sent His son”
JN 3:16 SAYS “God so loved the WORLD”
That is easy to forget
We say – it’s the Church against the world
BUT GOD LOVES THE WORLD
He created it!
If you doubt this remember Documents of VAT II
One of the Documents is entitled “The Church in the modern world”
NOT “The Church against the modern world”
NOT “The Church above the modern world”
IT IS “The Church IN the modern world”

So – when you are tempted to think of God as ANGRY, UNFORGIVING, VENGEFUL
REMEMBER JN 3:16

And remember who loves you