

What to Do with a Loving God?

John 3:16-21

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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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God...

John 3:16-21, cont.

“And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Why these words were spoken

- A clandestine meeting by a leader of the Jews
- A good man with a hungry heart for more than rules, power, and respect.
- “You must be born again.”
- Christ came to save, not condemn
- What is our responsibility toward God and toward the gospel?

1. A responsibility to choose love

- **“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”**
- **God loves from His heart, His nature**
- **“Deep calls to deep” (Psalm 42:7)**
- **“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.” (Psalm 103:14)**

**God loves us as a father or mother
loves a dirty child**



Quote from Alexander MacLaren

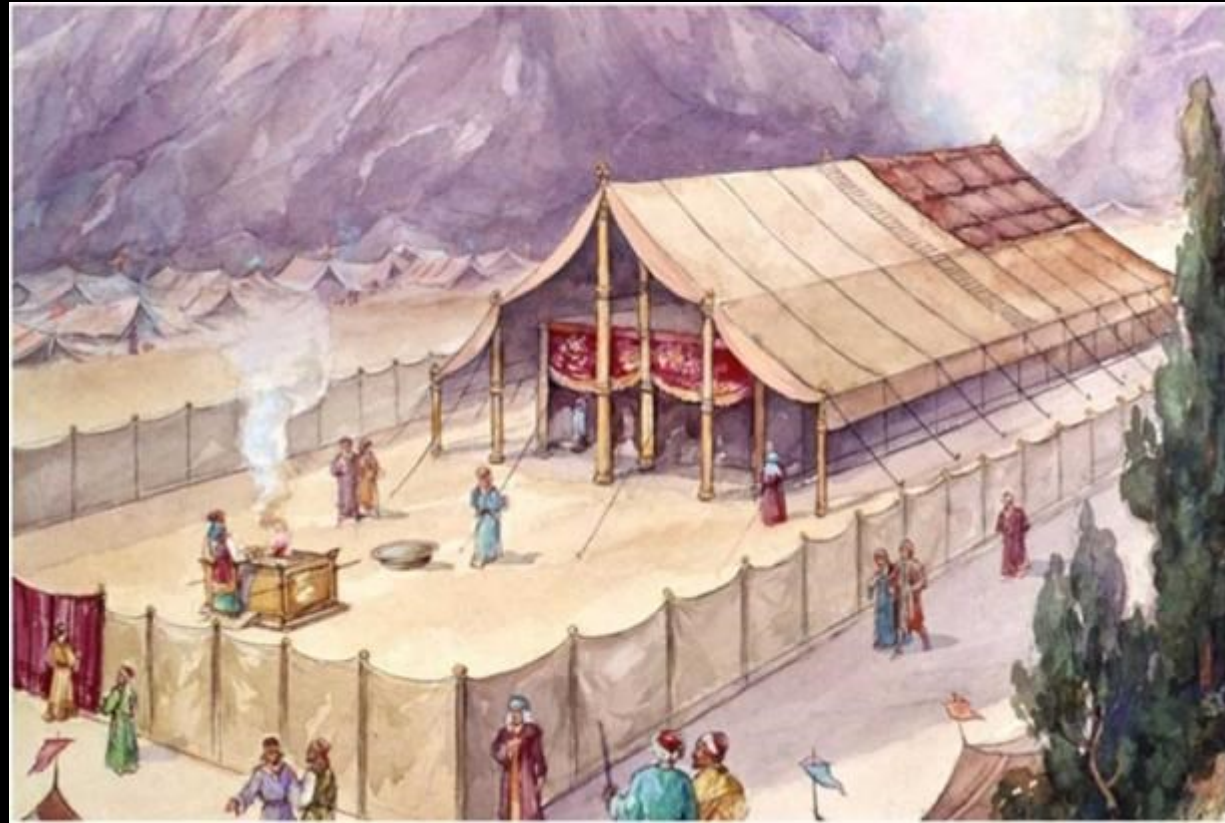
“‘The world’ does not only mean men, but sinful men, men separated from God. And the great and blessed truth taught here is that, however I may drag myself away from God, I cannot drive Him away from me, and that however little I may care for Him, or love Him, or think about Him, it does not make one hairs-breadth of difference as to the fact that He loves me. I know, of course, that if a man does not love Him back again, God’s love has to take shapes that it would not otherwise take...”

2. A responsibility to choose life

- “that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”**

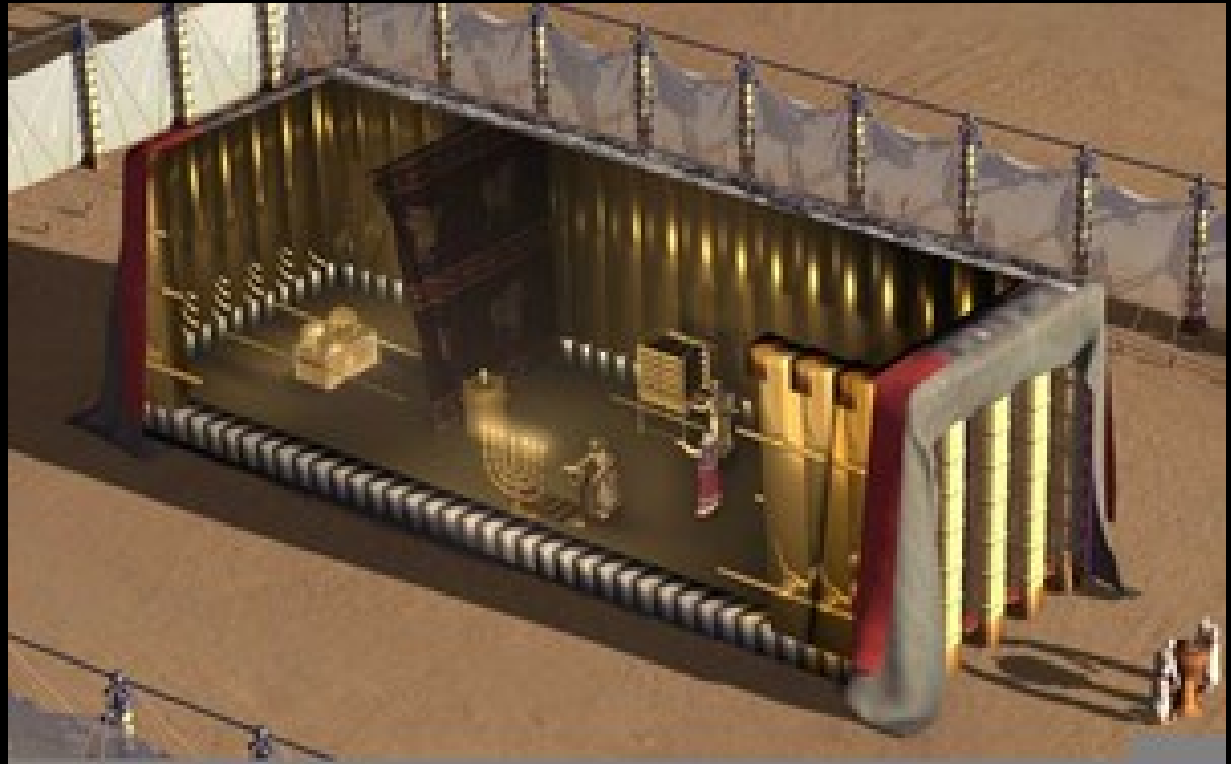
The Tabernacle

- **Dusty**
outside



The Tabernacle

- **Dusty**
outside
- **Beautiful**
inside



We are saved FOR life!

- To bring us out of death and into life**
- To bring us out of judgment and into security**
- To bring us out of darkness and into light**
- To bring us out of emptiness and into fullness**
- To bring us out of lovelessness and into love**

3. A responsibility to choose light

- “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”**