



SERMON NOTES

Week 3 December 12, 2021

“Altogether Love”

I John 4:7-12; Philippians 2:5-8;
Luke 1:39-42, 46-55



I. Introduction

- A. This series is designed to help us cover the _____ between ‘almost’ and ‘altogether.’
- B. An altogether love transforms darkness into _____.
- C. _____ is a love story.

II. God is Love

- A. The primary attribute of God’s character is _____.
- B. Throughout scripture we find this concept of _____ as central to the idea of love.
- C. We respond to God’s love by loving God through _____, worship and daily living.

III. You Shall See a Sign

- A. Love is the sign that we offer to others that _____ has come.
- B. Love is the giving of oneself for the well-being of _____ person.
- C. Reflection Question: Who do you need to _____ this Christmas season?

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *December 13-18, 2021*

INTRODUCTION

An 'almost love' is a love that welcomes only the parts of people desirable, or palatable, or easy to handle. We settle for an 'almost love' instead of 'altogether love' because we don't allow our full selves to be shown. We do this because we fear that if someone really knew us, we would not be lovable. So how can we move from an 'almost love' to an 'altogether love'?

Monday: Isaiah 42:1-7

Jesus was the light of love, the one who brought release from darkness to all who would accept that light. How does Isaiah's beautiful poetry fit into your everyday life? What actions or attitudes will change if God or others open your eyes, free you from things that hold you captive or release you from any dungeons where you sit in darkness? What will it look like if you work with God to do that for other people?

Tuesday: John 1:1-5

When John called Jesus "the Word," he drew on both Jewish thought (see, e.g., Psalm 33:6-9) and ideas from Greek philosophy. "In him was life," John declares. What made it important for John to tell us that Jesus is the origin and source of all life? (See John 10:17-18 for more on this.) Why does that matter to you?

Wednesday: John 1:9-14

"The Word" - that cosmic, creating Word John tells us about - "became flesh." That's the central Christmas truth. The God of the universe, born as a human infant, in a small town in a small, powerless land held in Rome's iron grip, changed history forever. How has the reality of Christ, his entrance into your life, changed you?

Thursday: Luke 2:8-20

When the shepherds heard these incredible words, what would they have thought and how would they have reacted? If angels delivered such a message to you today, would you believe and accept what you heard? Will you allow yourself to "hear" God in your life? Can you, today, during this holiday season, feel the joy the shepherds must have felt?

Friday: Luke 2:1-7

At the time of Jesus' birth, Joseph, Mary and Jesus were among the poorest of people and were homeless. When we think about it, aren't we all, spiritually speaking, poor and homeless without God? How does our acceptance of the joy of Jesus' birth and of the salvation he offers, bring us a whole new life...a rebirth?

MOVING FORWARD

The primary attribute of God's character is love. He demonstrated his love for us by coming to this earth to give himself away for us. God loves us no matter who we are or what we have done. We are called to respond to God's love by loving God with all our heart and loving others. Advent invites us to enter into a season of reflection where we become honest with ourselves and consider what it means to bring our whole selves to God. After we encounter God, we are transformed and we go into the world and give ourselves for the well-being of others.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) distance, B) light, C) Christmas. IIA) love, B) giving, IIC) praise. IIIA) Jesus, B) another, C) bless.