

There are really only three chapters to the story of the world.

Creation.

Fall.

Redemption.

And if we forget any one of them,
nothing makes sense.

The first chapter is creation.

God made the world.

Not because He was lonely. Not because He needed anything.

God is perfect.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. An eternal communion of love.

And out of that love He created everything that exists.

The stars.

The seas.

The mountains.

The birds of the air.

And finally humanity.

Men and women made in His image.

Made to know Him.

Made to love Him.

Made to live in friendship with Him.

That is the first truth about every person here.

You were wanted.

You were created.

You were loved before you ever existed.

Then comes the second chapter. The fall.

And if creation explains our greatness, the fall explains our misery.

Because something has gone wrong.

Deeply wrong.

We all know it.

We see it in the world.

Wars.

Violence.

Broken homes.

Betrayal.

Addiction.

But if we are honest, we see it much closer than that.

In ourselves.

The anger we cannot control.

The selfishness we excuse.

The grudges we carry.

The sins we repeat.

The strange contradiction of the human heart.

We know the good yet we do the opposite.

That is the tragedy of Adam.

Humanity turns from God.

Not because God stopped loving humanity.

Because humanity wanted life without God.

And ever since,
the human race has been trying to prove that it can be happy without its Creator.

It never works.

That is why every generation invents new promises.

More wealth. More freedom. More technology. More comfort.

And yet people remain restless.

Because the problem was never a lack of comfort.

The problem was separation from God.

A branch cut from the tree does not need self-improvement.

It needs reconnection.

And that brings us to the third chapter.

Redemption.

The chapter we could never have written ourselves.

Because today's Gospel does not say:

"Humanity so loved God that it found its way back."

It says: **"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son."**

That is the turning point of history.

Humanity runs from God.

God comes after humanity.

Humanity hides.

God searches.

Humanity falls.

God descends.

Every other religion begins with human beings seeking God.

The Gospel begins with God seeking human beings.

The shepherd searching for the lost sheep.

The father running to meet the prodigal son.

The Son of God entering a fallen world.

That is Christianity.

Rescue.

And what does God give?

Not a book.

Not a philosophy.

Not a programme for self-improvement.

He gives His Son.

The eternal Son enters our world.

He takes flesh.

Walks our roads.

Shares our sufferings.

And finally He goes to the Cross.

And here is the great paradox.

The Cross is the worst thing humanity ever did.

And the greatest thing God ever used.

Humanity rejects its Creator.

God turns rejection into redemption.

Humanity sheds innocent blood.

God uses that blood to save the world.

The very place where sin reaches its worst becomes the place where love shines most brightly.

That is why John 3:16 is so powerful.

Not because it is comforting.

Because it is astonishing.

God does not love an innocent world.

He loves a fallen world.

He loves sinners.

He loves people who have wandered.

He loves people who have failed.

He loves people who are carrying burdens nobody else knows about.

And He loves them enough to give His Son.

Then Jesus says something that sounds hard:

"Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already."

Why?

Because Christ did not come into a neutral world.

He came into a world already wounded by sin.

A world already moving toward death.

A world already lost.

The Son of God comes as a rescuer.

And every person must decide what to do with Him.

Imagine a town swept away by floodwaters.

A rescue boat arrives.

Some climb aboard.

Others refuse.

The boat has not condemned them.

The boat came to save them.

That is Christ.

He comes to save.

The tragedy is not that Christ refuses people.

The tragedy is that people refuse Christ.

And so the Gospel today is not really about condemnation.

It is about decision.

God has acted.

God has spoken.

God has come.

The Father has given His Son.

Now the question falls to you.

Will you receive Him?

Will you trust Him?

Will you build your life upon Him?

Because every human life ends the same way.

Not before a bank account.

Not before a career.

Not before public opinion.

Before Jesus Christ.

And on that day,
nothing will matter more than this:

When God came searching for me,

did I let Him find me?