

The Gospel of
JOHN
"Come and See"

March 5, 2023
John 15:12-17
"The Friend"

¹³ Greater love has no one than this,
that someone lay down his life for his friends.

This is the time between the Last Supper and Jesus' arrest

Last week: "Stay connected to me and we'll change the world"

This week: "Our connection is relational, powerful and fruitful."

Next week: "The world will put up a fight, against both of us."

John 15:12-17

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

- Love like I have

- I Love with total sacrifice

- Join me in this adventure

- I am on the adventure with you

- Your Love will eternally shake the whole world

- Love is the whole reason I came

- Love is the Whole Point
- What Love Looks Like
- What Creates Love

Love is the Whole Point

What would others say is the central goal of my life?

What motivates me when I get up in the morning?

After I am gone, what will I be known for?

Love is the Whole Point

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

“as I have loved you”

“so that”

John 3:16

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

Love is the Whole Point

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

- 1) Love is what everything is all about
Jesus: “I Love You. Go and Love Others”
Us: “Ok, that’s tough but sounds good.”

What Love Looks Like

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

What did Jesus mean when he told us to lay down our life?

Good News:
It is rarely literal

Bad News:
It's a lot harder than literally dying

What Love Looks Like

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

“Mega-Love”

Other-Centered

“If I were in their shoes...”

Self-Sacrificing

“What do I have that they need?”

My life for yours vs. Your life for mine

What Love Looks Like

It's Personal

What is "best"
for them?

He didn't choose me because of who I am
He chose me because of who He is.

What Love Looks Like

It's Personal

What is "best"
for them?

It's Painful

Give up my _____
for them

1 John 3:16

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

Die to...

My "Life"

Being Right

My Preferences

My way

What Love Looks Like

It's Personal

What is "best"
for them?

It's Painful

Give up my _____
for them

It's Perpetual

This is the call
of my whole life

Luke 9:23-24

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

What Love Looks Like

It's Personal

What is "best"
for them?

It's Painful

Give up my _____
for them

It's Perpetual

This is the call
of my whole life

It's Productive

Our love has eternal
and abiding impact

¹⁶ appointed you that you should go and bear fruit
and that your fruit should abide,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name,
he may give it to you.

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations



What Love Looks Like

It's Personal

What is "best"
for them?

It's Painful

Give up my _____
for them

It's Perpetual

This is the call
of my whole life

It's Productive

Our love has eternal
and abiding impact

1) Love is what everything is all about

Jesus: "I Love You. Go and Love Others."

Us: "Ok, that's tough but sounds good."

2) Love is other-centered and self-sacrificing

Jesus: "Love to the point of total sacrifice"

Us: "That's way too much to ask. I can't do it"

This is Utterly Impossible. Until it's not.

What Creates Love

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you.

¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

¹⁴ You are my friends
IF you do what I command you.

¹⁴ **YOU ARE MY FRIENDS**
if you do what I command you.

Friendship with God

Presence of God

Power of God

What Creates Love

What if I could see this impossible command not as a painful burden but an offer to have the very power of God stream in and through me, creating an eternal and glorious impact.

That I've been invited to love the way I've been loved.

Jesus isn't merely my example, but my power.

Laying down life
actually makes me come alive

What Creates Love

1) Love is what everything is all about

Jesus: "I Love You. Go and Love Others"

Us: "Ok, that's tough but sounds good."

2) Love is other-centered and self-sacrificing

Jesus: "Love to the point of total sacrifice"

Us: "That's way too much to ask. I can't do it"

3) Love led Jesus to die for us and now live with us

Jesus: "I Love you 'to death' and will fully empower your love"

Us: "Here I am. Send me."

“The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with His death—we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ.

When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.

It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow Him, or it may be a death like Luther’s, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every time—death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at his call.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*