

*“Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” – John 15:13*

When Oliver Cromwell was the Lord Protector of England in the 1650’s, he ordered a soldier to be shot for crimes that he had committed. The sentence was to be carried out at the ringing of the evening bell.

That night, the girl who was to marry the condemned man, climbed up into the bell tower and clung to the great clapper to prevent it from striking. When she was brought before Cromwell to give an account of her actions, she only wept and showed him her bruised and bleeding hands.

Cromwell was greatly impressed with the woman and said, “Your lover is alive because of your sacrifice. The sentence will not be carried out. He is now free.”

How would you react if you knew that someone had been willing to suffer on your behalf so that you could live? Can you possibly imagine such love? Yet, that is exactly what Christ did for you. He loved you so much that He endured terrible suffering and death upon the cross so that you might have life, and have it abundantly.

*Question: What does Christ’s sacrifice mean to you?*