

# Our Response to His Great Love

January 27, 2019

## NO GREATER LOVE HAS EVER MANIFESTED

### 1 John 4:9-10 ESV

9 **In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.**

10 **In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation (the appeasement of God's judgment and justice, atoning sacrifice) for our sins.**

### Philippians 2:5-8 ESV

5 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,**

6 **who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,**

7 **but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.**

8 **And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

- *In prayer in Gethsemane, Jesus went to a place of indescribable agony that we have never experienced.*
- *Not even one strand of resistance remained in Jesus' heart and mind. He was fully emptied.*
- *How bad must hell be, how bad must the cross have been, to cause such agony in Jesus, when He knew His Father would not leave His soul in hell.*

### Luke 22:41-44 ESV

41 *And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,*

42 *saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."*

43 *And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.*

44 *And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

### Hebrews 12:3-4 ESV

3 *Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*

4 *In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.*

### Luke 9:23-24 ESV

23 **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.**

*Jesus makes such a demand on our lives, not only by the weight and authority of His divinity, but by the weight and authority of His sacrifice.*

- *He surrendered and gave all He could give first. He does not call us where He has never been Himself.*

- *He leads by example, not coercion or force. If He called us to a sacrifice that He had never made Himself, then His motives would be suspect.*
- *Christianity is the only religion with the Cross. The Cross does two things:*
  - *identifies us with Christ*
  - *defines the depth of our sacrifice and commitment to Christ*

#### Romans 12:1 ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

#### The surrender that Jesus calls us to:

- **Unconditional** - *nothing is off-limits*
- **Absolute** - *no turning back*
- **To His sovereignty** - *not just His law*

#### SURRENDER THAT IS UNCONDITIONAL (*nothing is off-limits*)

##### Luke 14:25-27 ESV

25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them,

26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

##### Genesis 22:1-3 ESV

1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

#### SURRENDER THAT IS ABSOLUTE (*decision is for life - no turning back*)

##### Genesis 19:12-26 ESV

12 Then the men [vs 1 - 2 angels] said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place.

13 For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

14 So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, "Up! Get out of this place, for the LORD is about to destroy the city." But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

15 As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters

who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city."

16 But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

17 And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away."

18 And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my lords.

19 Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die.

20 Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there--is it not a little one?--and my life will be saved!"

21 He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken.

22 Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

23 The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar.

24 Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven.

25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

26 But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Luke 9:57-62 ESV

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home."

62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

- *Jesus is not saying that owning a home, burying your parents or saying goodbye is wrong.*
- *Jesus is setting the standard of commitment by using those examples.*

Luke 14:27-33 ESV

27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,

30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

### SURRENDER TO HIS SOVEREIGNTY (*not just His law*)

Mark 10:17-23 ESV

17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'"

20 And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth."

21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23 And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

Job 13:3 ESV

3 But I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to argue my case with God.

Job 13:13-15 ESV

13 Let me have silence, and I will speak, and let come on me what may.

14 Why should I take my flesh in my teeth and put my life in my hand?

15 Though he slay me, I will hope (*yachal - wait, hope, expect, trust*) in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face.

Job 13:15 KJV

15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."*

— Jim Elliot