

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

How True Love is Expressed

Romans 5:6-8

1 In 16th Century England, a man was to be executed for his crimes at the ringing of the evening bell. As the man was standing before the firing squad at the appointed time, no sound was heard. The man's fiancé had climbed up into the bell tower, wrapped her hands around the bell clapper and prevented it from striking. When brought before Oliver Cromwell to give account of her actions, all she could do was weep. She then showed him her bruised and bloody hands. Her act of loving sacrifice saved her lover's life!

A woman was caught in a raging prairie fire with her baby. Seeing no way to escape, she dug a hole in the ground, placed her baby in it and then lay on top of it. When her dead burnt body was found her baby was alive! ¹

These are very dramatic examples of sacrifice for love. ² But, nobody loves you like God does! Read God's Word from Romans, Chapter 5, verses 6 through 8. ³ You see, at just the right time, when we

¹ "Our Daily Bread", September 2.

were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Abraham demonstrated his love for God by obediently being willing to sacrifice what he loved the most, his only son, as a burnt offering. He was at the point of plunging the knife into Isaac when God paralyzed his arm. ²

God demanded what you and I might consider a very horrible act of obedience. But He would not require anyone to do anything He Himself would not be willing to do. God sacrificed His only Son on the cross for you! That was the supreme sacrifice of love!

² Genesis 22:1-13.

I. The Cross Didn't Make Sense ⁴

The cross didn't make sense. ⁵ It went against logic. ⁶ It's not logical to sacrifice your only son to help your enemy. ⁷ But that's exactly what God did! In verse 8 we read, **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** This concept is emphasized in Colossians, Chapter 1, verse 21, ⁸ **Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. Again, in verse 10, ⁹ **For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!****

¹⁰ It went against natural human desire. The Lord was very willing to go to the cross ¹¹ if it was the only alternative. He experienced horrible agony to surrender to the fact that this was the only way to pay for your sins. ¹² Listen to what He went through for you, **Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may**

this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” . . . He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

13 It went against the Law of Moses. The Jewish high court which condemned Jesus to the cross broke their own law three times. 14 It was against the law to have a trial and then pronounce a verdict at night. 15 It was against the law to be accused by the judge, the high priest, and not the witnesses. 16 It was against the law to have only a portion of the court assembled for the trial.

17 It went against spiritual relationships. In Deuteronomy, Chapter 21, verse 23, 18 it says that hanging on a tree was a curse! ³ 19 Taking the sin of the world on His shoulders alienated the Son from His Heavenly Father. Notice what took place when Lord Jesus died which gave evidence of this.

³ Deuteronomy 21:23 - . . . you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse.

20 At the 6th hour, noon, there was complete darkness and an earthquake took place. **21** At 3:00 p.m., **about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” - which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** ⁴

II. But It Accomplished God’s Purpose

22

The cross didn’t make sense, but it accomplished God’s purpose.

23 You see, Satan considers your life cheap. He does everything he can to lower your self esteem. You aren’t worth very much as far as he is concerned. The blood and guts action movies you see on television or in theaters cheapen life. Pornography and sex everywhere you look demotes self esteem. An old useless slave during the American Civil War was overheard saying, “I was sold for the price of a

⁴ Matthew 27:46.

chicken!” Did you ever feel that worthless? It’s because of the influence of Satan on our world.

²⁴ On the other hand, God considers you of great worth. ²⁵ He considers you worthy enough to redeem you with His Son’s life! ²⁶ “Redeem”, in the original language ⁵, means to buy or purchase something. It’s the common word for buying a slave.

There are several scriptures that explain what this means to you. ²⁷ First Corinthians, Chapter 6, verses 19 and 20, **Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.**

²⁸ Ephesians, Chapter 1, verse 7, **In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.**

⁵ Αγοράζω.

29 Finally First Peter, Chapter 1, verses 18 and 19, **For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.**

30 God also considers you worthy enough to reconcile you back to Himself. In Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, verse 19, we read, **31** **God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.** **32** The term “reconcile” ⁶ means to exchange for something of equal value.

Lord Jesus suffered and died on the cross so you could be purchased back to God!

The story is told of a little boy who was playing with a toy boat he and his father had made. He loved that little boat. It was his favorite toy. One day he floated

⁶ Καταλλάσσω.

his boat in the cutter next to the curb in front of his house. The current began floating the boat swiftly down the street. No matter how fast the boy ran he couldn't catch up with the boat. It finally drifted out of sight. He had lost it!

A few weeks later as he was walking with his mother down the street in town they passed a pawn shop. There, in the window, was his little boat. He jumped up and down as he ran into the store. After receiving, in advance, his allowance from his mother, he purchased his little boat. As he was leaving the shop with his boat cradled in his arms he said, "Little boat, little boat. You're mine twice! I made you and I bought you!"

You know something? You belong to God twice. He created you and then He bought you! You are His property twice! He is as excited about having you as that boy was buying back his little boat! You are God's cherished possession!

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