

"The Love of Jesus"

Matthew 26

Introduction: Today and next week we will step away from our study of "Understanding the Chaos in our World" and for today and next week we will look at some of the events of the Passion Week of Jesus Christ. Next week we shall look at the Resurrection but today I want to help us to understand a little more of the depths of the love that Jesus Christ has for each and everyone of us.

God loves us with an everlasting love.

Jeremiah 31:3

³ *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, **I have loved thee with an everlasting love**: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

Jeremiah's words are for the nation of Israel but they are also applicable to our lives as well. There are 4 different kinds of love in the Bible.

- Storge - Love expressed within a family.
- Phileo - Love expressed in friendships.
- Eros - Love expressed between a husband and a wife.
- Agape - This is the highest type of love in the Bible.

Agape love is the love which God has for fallen man. It is an unconditional love that can never be changed. This love is a choice. Before the foundation of the world God knew what man would do and yet He still made the choice to love us. He does not love us because we are loveable but because He has chosen to love us. It is this love that God has for us that has motivated Him to offer the greatest sacrifice ever made so that He can have fellowship with us. This love was demonstrated on the cross 2000 years ago when Jesus Christ died for all mankind.

John 3:16-20

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

¹⁷ *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

¹⁸ *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Now there are many people who will not come to Jesus because as Jesus said here, they love the darkness and do not want their deeds exposed. Maybe that is you! Maybe you have never come to Jesus because you enjoy the sin that you are involved in. Possibly you have not come to Jesus because you think you have lots of time before you leave this world. Maybe it is a pride thing and you just do not want to admit you need a Savior. Whatever the reason you have not come so here you are today without God.

Ephesians 2:11-12

¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

This is where you are. This is a very frightening and an extremely dangerous place to be.

Today I want to show you a little more of the depth of the love which Jesus Christ has for you and how much He longs for you to humble yourself and come to Him for forgiveness. We are going to step into a scene that will take place Thursday evening of the Passion Week. Jesus and His disciples have left the upper room after Judas went out to betray Jesus.

I. The Darkness

Notice Matthew 26:36-37

Jesus would now go to the Garden of Gethsemane for several reasons.

1. Judas would be able to find Him here.
2. It all started in a Garden in Genesis 3.
3. The name "Gethsemane" has a special meaning.

Gethsemane means "olive press" or "oil press" because this is where the olives were gathered and pressed to get the olive oil. This is so appropriate because it will be in this Garden that Jesus will be PRESSED very hard by thoughts of the cross.

He takes with Him Peter, James and John and it would be there that they would witness the battle Jesus was in. He brings them further along. This was counted a privilege that they would experience Jesus in a way the others would not.

Application:

When I read this, I am reminded that He took them deeper into the darkness. Sometimes God makes the choice to take some of us deeper into the darkness. Let us remember that it is in those times that we will experience the Lord in ways that others do not understand.

Isaiah 45:1-3

Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

² I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:

*³ And **I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places,** that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.*

II. The Dread

Notice Matthew 26:38-39

I want to show you what Mark says about this scene.

Mark 14:33-34

*³³ And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be **sore amazed**, and to be **very heavy**;*

³⁴ And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

As Jesus went further that night the thoughts of the cross began to consume Him. The words "sore amazed" mean **"to throw into terror" or "to terrify."** The words "very heavy" mean "to be depressed" or "to become heavy." As Jesus went deeper into the Garden that night the thoughts of what was before Him began to make Him terrified. There were two main things which brought the terror.

➤ Separation

Matthew 27:45-46

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?* that is to say, **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**

➤ The Weight of Sin

He would be separated from the Father as well as bear the sins of the entire world.

Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

All of this terrified our Lord but especially the separation from the Father. That was hell!

Application:

If the thought of being separated from the Father terrified our Lord how much more should it terrify you? If you die in your sins, you will be separated from the God for all eternity. Right now, you experience the blessings of God. You enjoy physical life, you enjoy the freedom of our country, you are blessed each and every day. But if you die in your sins that is all gone and you are forever separated from God. You cannot imagine what that will be like.

God is:

1. Light
2. Love
3. Peace
4. Joy
5. Life

You enjoy these today but that will all end when you die.

Revelation 20:14-15

¹⁴ *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

¹⁵ *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Let us notice how great the pressure was for our Lord.

Notice Matthew 26:39-44

Three times Jesus prayed for the cup to be taken away, but there was no other way.

Notice what Luke points out.

Luke 22:44

⁴⁴ *And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

Listen to the words of Ironside.

"His holy soul shrank from the awfulness of being made sin upon the tree. It was not death, but the divine anger against sin, the imputation to Him of all our iniquities that filled His soul with horror. There was no conflict of wills."

Conclusion:

Jesus went on and He endured the cross for you and me because He loves us. That means you must make a decision. Will you accept Him as your Savior or will you continue in your sins living in this world without God?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

⁴ *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*