

40 Days of Prayer & Devotion to Easter

Day 12

Imagine the weight of these words as Jesus imparts these critical truths in His final moments with the disciples. As the shadow of betrayal looms, with Judas preparing to betray Him outside the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ shares a crucial lesson about love and the necessity of abiding and staying connected with Him in John 15.

In verse 13, Jesus utters the first two words, "Greater love," prophetically foreseeing the imminent sacrifice. He knows that within 24 hours, He will willingly lay down His life not for any wrongdoing of His own, but for the sins of the world. This is where the greatest act of love in human history will unfold, setting the ultimate example for us- a love that perseveres even in the face of great personal sacrifice!

Human love often tends to be selfish, transactional and even conditional: you scratch my back-and I'll scratch yours kind of love. However, the greater love that Christ speaks of here transcends mere words, feelings or even desires. It's agape love- the highest form of love, that's unconditional, sacrificial, and selfless. It's a pure, willful love that desires the highest good.

Consider this: Jesus died for you not because you earned it but because His love for you is so great. Let this truth echo in your heart today: the God of the universe loves you!

Furthermore, notice in verse 13, Jesus calls us friends. The choice of the term "friends" adds depth to the verse. He could have used different words, but Jesus, the divine friend of humanity, extends an invitation into a profound relationship made possible by His love for you. He says, "You are my friend, and I am about to lay down my life so that you may live."

As we meditate on this verse, my prayer is that we may be inspired to love others with the same selfless, sacrificial love that Christ has displayed towards us. Consider someone in your life right now to whom you can show this greater love to today. Your act of love, with pure intentions, can make a significant difference in someone else's life.

– Pastor Ryan Shatzer

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

– John 15:13

