



Jesus Gives Us Love | John 15:12-17

December 24, 2023 | Jason Smith

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.
— John 15:9 (CSB)

Scripture Reading | John 15:12-17 (CSB)

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Introduction

- **When was a time you felt deeply loved?**
- **When was a time when you experienced a profound expression of love?**
 - **Christmas gifts and food when we were poor.**

→ **Jesus Gives us Love: A Love to Receive and a Love to Give.**

1. Jesus gives us a love like no other love.

12) “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13) Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:12-13 (CSB)

As I have loved you | The Rescue Mission (Caving Rescue)

Incarnation: Emptied Himself, Took on the Form

Revelation: The Way to the Kingdom of God (the work of God, friends)

Salvation: Sacrifice of Self to Cover our Sin



From Incarnation to Salvation

Jesus could have been born into a wealthy family. He could have turned stone into bread in the wilderness. He could have called ten thousand angels to his aid in Gethsemane. He could have come down from the cross and saved himself. The question is not what God could do, but what he willed to do. God's will was that though Christ was rich, yet for your sake he became poor. The "No Vacancy" signs over all the motels in Bethlehem were for your sake. "For your sake he became poor" (2 Corinthians 8:9). God rules all things—even hotel capacities and available Airbnbs—for the sake of his children. The Calvary road begins with a "No Vacancy" sign in Bethlehem and ends with the spitting and scoffing of the cross in Jerusalem.

- *Good News of Great Joy*, John Piper

→ **This week as you give gifts and receive gifts from those you love, remember the ultimate gift of Christ and the perfect love he brings.**

2. Because Jesus loves us greatly, we can love each other deeply.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another..." John 15:12 (CSB)

This is my commandment | Obedience to Christ

A command: Obedience from love

An invitation: Join in what we are doing

A relationship: Be like me

"If you don't love your brother, then you don't love God." - Rhonda Vincent (bluegrass singer)

Love one another | The Community of Faith

Know: Go beyond the surface

Show: Serve each other, Meet needs

Grow: Disciple each other, Spiritual Encouragement

3. We can take steps to love each other.

Bear Fruit that Lasts (v. 16)

Identify 3 People | Intentionality is Key

1 - who you can get to know better

1 - who you can show kindness to

1 - who you can spiritually encourage



SOUND CITY

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Prayer Points

1. Thank God for the love that Jesus brings us! That Jesus calls us his friends and reveals the work of God to us.
2. Ask God to open your heart to love deeply those around you. That God will fill your heart with genuine concern, kindness, and care for his people.
3. Pray that God will empower you to join him in his work of showing that same love to others and be part of growing them in faith.

Discussion Questions

1. When was a time that you felt loved in an especially impactful way?
2. How has love changed your life?
3. How does it affect you to know that Jesus loves you personally knowing you exactly as you are, “warts and all”?
4. What would it look like in your life if you lived out the love of Jesus by loving others deeply?
5. Are there changes you need to make or actions you need to start in regard to loving others?