

How deep the Fathers Love for Us

Graham Nelson – LMC - Father's Day 2025

- This morning it's Father's Day with a difference.
- Instead of a message to "fathers" it a message to all of us.
- **A** message about "How deep our heavenly Fathers love is for us".
- My hope and desire is that no one will leave today without knowing, understanding, accepting and experiencing our heavenly Father's love.
- There are many reasons for the hope I have however a big one is found in 1 John 4 where it says:

1 John 4:16-17 *... we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment,*

- Knowing God's love gives us the confidence to be able to face the days that we are now living in without fear.
- There are so many passages that we could use to show how much God love us – passages like John 3:16

John3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

- Or

Matthew 6:8 *..... your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

- Our heavenly Father loves us more than we will ever understand or imagine and because of this, He knows what we need even before we ask.
- Then there is this one:

1 John 3:1

See what an incredible quality of love the Father has shown to us, that we would be permitted to be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are!.....

- Not only does God love us but He has adopted us into His family calling us His sons and daughters.
- And then we have:

Romans 5:8

....but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- And lastly

Ephesians 3:18-22

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

- As I have been musing on this message over the last couple of weeks God led me to this song, which I have asked Steph and the team to sing to us this morning.
- As they sing for us, could I ask that you reflectively listen to the words, allowing the Holy Spirit to soften you for what God wants to do this morning.

How deep the Father's love for us - Stuart Townend

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He would give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

- What is the message that Stuart has penned for us in these words?
- In short, the Father loves us so much that He sent the Son to pay the penalty for our lawbreaking.
- The depth, height, and width of it is immeasurable.
- This selfless act of Jesus brings about the forgiveness of sins; a favour with God that is undeserved.
- We are all unworthy.
- In response, we do not boast in anything except Christ and His Love.
- Much of what I say this morning will not be new as we have had it unpacked throughout the year as we have journeyed through the gospel of John, yet I want to reiterate some of them again as we see it through the eyes of the Father who not only loved His son but us as well.
- The events that happened prior to Jesus' arrest and subsequent crucifixion did not take Jesus by surprise; it was all part of the plan formed before the foundation of the world.

- In speaking of his death, Jesus wanted his disciples and us today to understand “No one,” he says, “takes my life from me, I lay it down of my own accord.
- Jesus was crucified in obedience to His father’s wishes for us.
- As the sun’s light faded that day, and as the darkness covered over the whole land; as the temple curtain was torn in two, Jesus cried out with a loud voice “It is finished.”
- He then cried out, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” And then, having said that the bible says, “he breathed his last.”
- The amazing drama that unfolded that day caused one of the soldiers to say something like; “something has happened here that has never happened before and will never happen again.”
- The centurion then, pronounces Christ’s innocence and the crowd then begin to disperse.
- Luke tells us, “they went home overcome with grief.”
- This is where I find myself reflecting on **verse two** of the song.

*Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished*

- I close my eyes and see the cruel nails, the crown of thorns, the jeering mocking crowd, the injustice of all that Jesus suffered and then realize what it’s all about.
- It’s all about “How deep the Father’s love for us is” that provided us with the provision of Salvation through the sacrificial death of Jesus, His only begotten Son on that instrument of death, the cross.
- Remember Jesus words to His disciples in John 10:17

John 10:17-18 *For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."*

- That's why Romans 5:8 is so impacting when it says:

Romans 5:8 *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

- He didn't love us because it was prompted by anything in us or that we had done.
- He didn't love us because we deserved it, He loved us just because he loves us.
- I said at the start of my message, my hope and desire is that no one will leave here today without knowing, understanding, accepting, and experiencing our heavenly Father's love.

I John 4:16 *....So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.....*

- Do you know that it's possible to come to know something but not believe in it?
- That's why John says, "we have come to know and to believe."
- Many Christians know the love of God as an intellectual reality, but they have not come to believe it from a personal living standpoint.
- If you gave them a piece of paper and said, "Write down the answer to this question: Does God love?" They would say yes, and they would get that answer correct because intellectually they know it.
- But then if you made it more personal and said, "Does God love you unconditionally?"
- Many would struggle and say, "Well, I'm just not sure sometimes."
- And yet John says, "we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us."

- Accepting what Jesus did on the cross is accepting God's love for you.
- Our very salvation boils down to an expression of God's love for us, but it is also an act on our part of receiving that love through faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross.
- God loved me, I received his love when I accepted what His Son did for me.

1 John 4:19*We love because he first loved us.*

- Love didn't originate with us, it originated with God, and the reason we love is because He first loved.
- In the Old Testament, God put a requirement in the law that the children of Israel would love the Lord their God with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their mind.
- The big trouble with the law was that it couldn't do anything to produce that kind of love. It was just the law.
- God solved that by sending His Son, the law breaker, the manifestation of his love, to give Himself for us.
- The depth of God's love for us is reflected in how far He was willing to allow His Son to suffer that we might gain our freedom.
- It's very easy to say Jesus died for our sins, but it speaks nothing of how and what He suffered on our behalf.
- In verse one of the song, it says; the Father turns His face away.
- In Matthew 27:46 it says:

Matthew 27:46*My God, why have you forsaken me?"*

- Jesus took upon Himself rejection so that we can be accepted.
- Again, I don't think we truly understand the depth of His suffering.
- As I reflect and meditate on how He willingly suffered, I begin to get an idea of His love for us.

- My heart swells up with gratitude, appreciation and a love toward God because “You gave me everything, how can I not give you everything?”
- We love because He first loved us.
- As we come to a close, what better way to reflect and remember the Father’s love for us by ending this service with communion.
- I am going to ask the hospitality team to distribute the elements while Steph and the team sing for us again.
- Please use this time to dwell on “how deep the Fathers love for you” is.
- We will take communion together.

GN Close in Prayer.

---oo0oo---