

THE GREATEST LOVE STORY.

5/4/20-25 AM

INTRO.:

- A. **John 15:13** “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”
- B. **What is the greatest love story of all times?**
 - 1. The story of Romeo and Juliet is a classic love story we read in school.
 - 2. We have all have read stories:
 - 1) A man lost his life saving his children from a raging fire.
 - 2) A young man drown trying to save his children.
 - 3) **2 Corinthians 12:15** “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you...”
- C. **Stories of love touch our hearts, but there’s one even greater than any of these.**
 - 1. It’s a story of the love God has for mankind though men reject Him.
 - 2. Israel rebelled against Him time and time again.
 - 3. His love, for us is so strong, that He sent the His only Son to rescue us from sin.
 - 1) He paid the highest price to save our souls.
 - 2) **Romans 5:8** “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

DISCUSSION: THE LOVE OF GOD...

I. IS DEMONSTRATED.

- A. **God -IS- love.** **1 John 4:8** “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”
- B. **God demonstrated His love for us by sending Jesus to save us.**
 - 1. **1 John 4:10** “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins...”
 - 2. **Romans 8:32** “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”
- C. **Real love willingly demonstrates itself.**
 - 1. This love seeks the best for the object of its affection.
 - 1) Husband/wives; Parents/children,
 - 2) Love is **the extension of oneself**.
 - 2. This love is demonstrated in the family of God (the church).
 - 1) In the church, we have fond feelings for each other.
 - 2) We call one other brother/sister.
 - 3) Paul called Timothy his son in the faith. **1 Tim. 1:2**.
 - 4) John called the brethren “my little children” (**1 John 2:1**).
 - 3. Love for our brethren will move us to action.
 - 1) **Galatians 6:1-2**.
 - 2) **Romans 15:1-2**.

II. IS NOT AN EMOTIONAL REACTION TO A SITUATION.

- A. **People often spontaneously do great acts of love in response to emergencies.**
 - 1. We all know of things done in response to circumstances.
 - 1) Facing certain harm yet responding to someone’s need.
 - 2) Soldiers who unselfishly give their lives to save others.
 - 3) First responders daily demonstrate their compassion for others.

2. These are reactions to circumstances.

B. But note: God carefully planned what He would do to save mankind.

1. **This was planned** before He created the world. **1 Pet. 1:20-21** “Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”
2. God did not want man to sin - but He knew we would.
3. God’s plan was revealed by the prophets beforehand.
 - 1) **Isa. 53:7** “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”
 - 2) **Matt 1:21** “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”
4. The coming of Jesus brought the eternal plan together. **Gal. 4:4-5** “But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

III. THE GREATEST LOVE STORY?

A. The greatest love story is before our very eyes.

1. Jesus came to bring about God’s plan (Demonstrating His supreme love.)
 - 1) **John 9:4** “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”
 - 2) **Luke 19:10** “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

B. The cross of Christ reveals THE GREATEST LOVE STORY ever told.

1. On the cross, Jesus said, “It is finished” (**John 19: 30**).
2. Jesus came to this earth *for the purpose* of dying for our sins!
 - 1) **Mark 10:45** “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
 - 2) **John 10:15** “As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

IV. CONCLUSION:

- A. **Eph. 2:4** “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.”
- B. How do we feel about His love for us? Are we touched by His devotion to us?
- C. Our love for Him is expressed by what we do (**John 14:15**).