**Sacrifice**

Based on [John 12:20-43](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn12.20-43)

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Good Friday

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Behold, this day, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Behold cross upon which hung the salvation of the world. On the cross, Jesus Christ died for your sins. **This was his Father’s plan, to make right all of the offenses you have done by sending his son to suffer and atone for you.** Jesus’ love for you on the cross is an example for you. It is an example of what love looks like. Love is sacrifice.

In the scriptures, if my research in right, the first time the word “love” is used is in Genesis 22. “After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “**Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, *whom you love*, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”**

When God’s people are willing to sacrifice for him, it is a love that is rightly called worship. Abraham worshipped God by being willing to give up what he loved in obedience to him. How much more does the Father love us and count us worthy?**! He gives his only begotten Son whom he loves, to suffer and die for us.** For God so Loved the world that he sacrificed his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Sacrifice is what love is all about. But there is something unique about the sacrifice of God’s son. **The sacrifice of Abraham’s son cannot atone for sin. The sacrifice of yourself, or anyone you love, cannot make satisfaction for your offenses against God.** “Not all the blood of beasts, on Jewish altars slain could give your guilty conscience peace or wash away the stain” (LSB 431).

Jesus’ death is an example “the example” of sacrificial love. But it is not only an example. It is an accomplishment of something you cannot do. Psalm 49:7 says, “**No man can by any means redeem his brother Or give to God a ransom for him.”** But Jesus, who is not only a man, but true God has said, “**The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many**” (Matthew 20:28).

And when the ransom is paid, and atonement is made, the devil loses all his authority over the people of God, and death loses its sting. And so Jesus, before he ascends to the altar of his cross, testifies of what his death will accomplish saying, “**Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself**” (John 12:31-32).

Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome. “**The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.**”