

Day 3: Love:

“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” - 1 John 3:16-18

Read:

Take the time to read this verse to yourself in a soft whisper. What is God trying to get you to understand about **love**?

Think:

C.S. Lewis writes this in his book entitled, *“The Weight of Glory.”*: “If you asked twenty good men today what they thought the highest of the virtues, nineteen of them would reply, Unselfishness. But if you had asked almost any of the great Christians of old, he would have replied, Love.”

We live in a time when self-denial is not the common posture. Really think: What does it look like to have a sacrificial love for someone? Even further, and possibly more of a difficult task, what does it look like to love an enemy? It’s easy to love someone you agree with, but

what does it cost you to show the deep, agape-like love towards an enemy.

It will cost you this: To deny yourself of your pride, to deny yourself the need to be “right”, and to show that person a deep desire of a reconciling love. There is not a human being on this earth that Jesus Christ did not die for should they call upon him as Savior. If that is the case, *and it is*, and if Christ commands us to love God and our neighbor, *which he did*, it puts every single one of us in a place where we choose to love others or deny the clear command from the Messiah.

Pray:

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving. Thank the Lord that He loved you enough that He gave His only begotten Son in order for your sin to be wiped away. This was God’s righteousness and his powerful work of salvation to reconcile His creation back to Himself. Pray to understand more deeply that the Lord loves you so much that He sacrificed His most precious Son in order to see you saved from the strongholds of sin. God loves, and if we are made in his image, we should love too. Sacrificially.

“We love because he first loved us.” - 1 John 4:19