

GOD'S EXEMPLARY LOVE

THEME: LOVE

TEXT: 1 John 4:10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

INTRODUCTION

Loving Sacrifice

There was a blind girl who hated herself because of being blind.

Not only did she hate herself but she hated everyone else, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her.

She said that if she could only see the world, she would marry her boyfriend.

One lucky day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her.

She then saw everything, including her boyfriend.

Her boyfriend then asked her, "Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?"

She was SHOCKED when she saw that her boyfriend was blind too.

She said, I am sorry but I can't marry you because you are blind and it will be too hard.

Her boyfriend walked away with tears and said, "Please just take care of my eyes.

Definition:Exemplary - worthy of imitation; commendable; serving as a model;
synonyms: laudable, noteworthy, praise worthy

THE THREE MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S EXEMPLARY LOVE

1. FAITHFULNESS

- Ps 85:10 **Love and faithfulness meet together**; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- Jer 31:3 The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.
- Lam 3:22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
- Lam 3:32 Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, **so great is his unfailing love.**

2. FORGIVENESS

- Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**" And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.
- Luke 15:19-20 So he got up and went to his father. "**But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.**

- Acts 7:59-60 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "**Lord, do not hold this sin against them.**" When he had said this, he fell asleep.

3. FORGETFULNESS

- Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and **remembers your sins no more.** NIV
- Jeremiah 31:34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD, because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,' declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and **will remember their sins no more.**" NIV
- Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, **so that your sins may be wiped out**, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, NIV

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

"WHEN GOD SPOKE OF HIS LOVE FOR US, HE ACTED ON IT WHEN HE SENT HIS SON JESUS TO DIE FOR OUR SINS AND LIVE THROUGH JESUS.

- 1 John 4:9, This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

WHAT DOES GOD EXPECTS US TO DO TODAY?

1. LIVE CHRIST FOR OTHERS TO OBSERVE, Eph 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.
2. MODEL CHRIST FOR OTHERS TO SEE, 2 Thess 3:9 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow.
3. IMITATE CHRIST FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW, 1 Cor 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

CONCLUSION

HOW DO WE IMPACT OTHERS WITH GOD'S EXEMPLARY LOVE?

WE OWE GOD OUR LIFE BECAUSE HE DID NOT SPARE HIS OWN FOR OUR SAKE. THEREFORE, WE MUST HONOR HIS SON MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:21)

"To withhold love for our own selfish purposes is to follow the enemy, not God. God's love for us is undeserved. We did nothing to earn it; no good in us merited it. " (God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Rom.5:8.)