

TITLE: HOW DID JESUS SHOW HIS LOVE?

THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to show four ways that Jesus demonstrates his love to us.

INTRO: One of the most well known verses in the Bible (if not *the* most well known) is John 3:16. Although I haven't seen it recently, fans used to display this and other verses on signs at football games. If the Bible could be summed up in one verse, I believe this would be it...God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus. **But how did Jesus love the world?**

I. BY HIS COMING:

- A. Isn't it important to us when people show up? Ever throw a party and nobody came? Showing up is important. People who show up forsake themselves for a period of time in order to be there for us.
- B. Jesus forsook himself (and Heaven) for us for approx. 33 years. **He showed up!**
- C. **Phil 2:6-8** – the nature of Jesus
 1. **(v. 6) Jesus was God!** Jesus, existing in the form of God, considered it not robbery to be equal to God. ASV incorrectly uses “grasped” instead of robbed, & sounds like equality with God was not something Jesus could grasp, or reach. This makes it sound like Jesus was *not* God. However, the word “form,” as well as the context, clearly teach otherwise.
 2. **(v. 7) Yet He became a servant!** “He emptied himself” (of his privileges as Deity; gave up the luxuries of Heaven) and became a servant/slave (**Lk 22:27** – “I am among you as he that serveth”; **Mt 8:20** – no place to lay His head) Why do this? **Heb 2:17-18** – to be a merciful high priest, to make reconciliation for our sins, to experience humanity.
 3. **(v. 8a) Then he humbled himself.** He didn't come here, empty himself, and become a servant, all with a bad attitude, like a teenager being forced to take the trash out!
 4. **(v. 8b) And He was obedient even unto the point of death on the cross!** At any point, he could've stopped, but didn't!

II. BY HIS HEALING:

- A. Two purposes for His healing:
 1. Prove his Deity
 2. Show compassion – He had the power & the desire to heal sick people and to drive out unwanted demons (**Mt 9:36; 14:14**).
- B. **Luke 7:12-14** – In the city of Nain, He raised the widow's son from the dead, because “he had compassion on her.”
- C. He showed his love not only by the healing, but also by the opportunity that this healing provided him...the opportunity to teach.

III. BY HIS TEACHING:

- A. Are our school teachers overpaid or underpaid? Of course we know they're underpaid. We value our teachers (at least in word). At least some of us recognize the need to *teach* our children. Education is very valuable.
- B. **Acts 1:1** – Luke says that the purpose of his treatise was to tell “of all that Jesus began to do and to teach.” Jesus came to teach.
- C. Jesus showed love to us by teaching. Where would we be without the knowledge that has been given to us freely in the Bible?
 1. Is there a God? Has he communicated with us? Does He want anything from us? Is He a good God or an evil God?
 2. Where did we come from? How did we get here?
 3. What happens after we die? Is there a Heaven and/or Hell? How can I get to Heaven?One of Jesus' greatest acts of love...His teaching! He taught His disciples these things, then taught them to teach others.

IV. BY HIS SUFFERING:

- A. On the cross
 1. **Mt 27:46** (Mk 15:34) – “My God, my god, why hast thou forsaken me?” The answer? Our sins! Jesus took on our sins, suffered tremendously for them, and was temporarily separated from God...in order to forgive our sins!
 2. **Mk 15:9-20** – “Crucify him!” (even though they knew how horrible crucifixion was). He was then scourged (inhumane), mocked by the *whole* Roman band (military squad), crowned with a crown of thorns, hit, spit on, and crucified.
 3. **Luke 23:34** – “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” Jesus had power on earth to forgive sins (**Mt 9:6**). But the plan for the ultimate forgiveness of man would come later (**Ac 2**) when the plan was offered to all who obey (**Ac 2:38**).
 4. **Luke 23:43** – “Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” Even in the midst of extreme pain, Jesus was merciful.
 5. **John 19:26-27** – He showed his love for his mother – “Woman, behold thy son. Behold thy mother.”
- B. In the garden
Mk 14:33-36 – “My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death.” “All things are possible. Take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.”

CONCLUSION: Rom 5:8 - “God showed his love to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died *for us* (the ungodly - v.6). All this was done *for us!* After Jesus ascended and people were taught the truth, they were pricked in their hearts & obeyed the gospel (**Acts 2:37-41**). **2 Pet 3** - “What manner of people ought we to be, in all holy conversation and godliness?” If Christ's love and these things he did because of His love don't compel you to want to be a better Christian, what will?