

# LOVE WORTH DYING FOR

**JOHN 15:13**

**CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – MAY 25, 2025**

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## SCRIPTURE READING

*John 15:13*

*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

## SERMON SUMMARY

This sermon, shared on Memorial Day weekend, reminds us that while we honor those who laid down their lives for our country, we must also remember the greater sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Drawing from the story of Navy SEAL Michael Monsoor, the message challenges us to reflect on the love of Christ—the love worth dying for. Jesus did not merely talk about love—He demonstrated it. Through the L.O.V.E. framework—Lay it down, Others first, Valor in action, Eternal impact—we are invited to live lives that reflect His sacrificial love.

Big Idea: Love worth dying for is love worth living for.

### L.O.V.E. Framework

#### L – Lay it Down

- Before love gives life, it gives something up. Jesus intentionally laid down His life for us.
- “No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.” (John 10:18)
- Supporting Scriptures:
  - Genesis 22:9-12 – Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice Isaac.
  - Philippians 2:6-8 – Christ humbled Himself to the point of death.
  - Hebrews 10:10 – ‘We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.’

#### O – Others First

- True love doesn’t look inward—it looks outward. Jesus’ life was marked by placing others above Himself.
- “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)
- Supporting Scriptures:
  - Mark 10:45 – Jesus came not to be served, but to serve.
  - John 13:14-15 – Jesus washed His disciples’ feet.
  - Romans 12:10 – ‘Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.’

#### V – Valor in Action

- Love that remains passive is emotion; love that steps into risk is valor.
- “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” (Luke 22:42)
- Supporting Scriptures:
  - Judges 4:9 – Deborah’s courage.
  - Daniel 6:10 – Daniel prayed despite danger.
  - Acts 20:24 – Paul’s boldness in proclaiming the Gospel.

#### E – Eternal Impact

- What we do in faith echoes in eternity. God honors sacrifices born of love.
- “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)
- Supporting Scriptures:
  - Hebrews 11:4 – Abel’s faith still speaks.

- Revelation 3:5 – ‘I will never blot his name out of the book of life.’
- Revelation 20:15 – Names written in the Book of Life matter forever.

## ICE BREAKER QUESTION

If you could only eat one food for every meal for the rest of your life—and it can’t be pizza—what would it be? Bonus points if it would gross out the person next to you.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

John 13–17, often called the ‘Farewell Discourse,’ captures Jesus’ final teachings before the cross. These chapters are not just a theological seminar but a deeply personal, emotional, and spiritual preparation for His disciples. It moves from acts of humility (foot washing), to promises of the Holy Spirit, to commands to abide in His love, and finally to a prayer for unity and mission.

### **Observation: What does the passage say?**

1. What details stand out to you from John 15:13? What words did Jesus use that carry weight or emotion?
2. From the story of Michael Monsoor, what impacted you most, and why?
3. What parallels do you see between Monsoor’s act and the Gospel?
4. What does Jesus washing His disciples’ feet (John 13:1–17) reveal about the nature of His leadership and love?
5. How do the themes of abiding (John 15:1–11), friendship with Jesus (John 15:12–17), and being sent into the world (John 17) build upon one another?
6. Read John 15:14–15 aloud. Why do you think Jesus calls His disciples ‘friends’ after commanding them to obey Him? How does this contrast with being a ‘servant’?

### **Interpretation: What does the passage mean?**

1. In what ways does Jesus model sacrificial love not only through His words in the Farewell Discourse but through His actions? How does the timing of this teaching—just before His betrayal—enhance its meaning? (See John 13:1 and John 15:13–15)
2. Why is Jesus’ definition of love so radical compared to our culture’s?
3. Read Philippians 2:6–8. What does this tell us about the nature of Jesus’ humility and sacrifice?
4. How does placing others first mirror the love of Christ? Why is it so hard to do?

### **Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?**

1. What is one thing God may be asking you to lay down right now?
2. Who in your life needs to experience ‘others-first’ love this week—and what can that look like?
3. Where is God calling you to quiet courage (valor) this season?
4. Is your faith currently making an eternal impact in anyone’s life? If not, what step can you take this week?
5. Share a time in your past when you intentionally laid something down for someone else—whether it was time, comfort, or pride. What was the outcome?
6. Looking ahead, where might God be asking you to show sacrificial love in the coming weeks? Is there a specific relationship or situation where He is calling you to walk in quiet valor?
7. How can you practically prepare your heart now—through Scripture, prayer, or accountability—for a future moment of sacrifice or obedience?

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### **“Love Worth Dying For”**

*Upon a hill, not crowned with earthly fame,*

*But thorns and nails, the Son of God was raised.*

*He bore our sin, endured our guilt and shame,*

*And through His death, the Father’s love was praised.*

*Not in a flash of glory or of might,  
But in the quiet choice to yield His breath—  
He freely chose the cross, embraced the night,  
So we might live beyond the grip of death.*

*Greater than friends who fall on fields of war  
Is Christ, whose sacrifice rewrote our story.  
With nail-pierced hands,  
He opened heaven's door  
And wrote our names in blood, not fleeting glory.*

*So let us live where sacred love was bled—  
For love worth dying for is love worth being led.*

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