The Incredible Love of Jesus

Romans 8:35-36

7/20/25 (SN Encounter)

One night a mother was tucking in her son. And no matter what kind of day that young boy had — whether he’d been good or gotten into trouble — she would always say the same thing as she leaned down to kiss him goodnight:
"I love you — no matter what."

Notice it’s just not about how the child felt that day, or what they had done — it was about who he was to her! That kind of love — unconditional, steady, even when we don’t deserve it — is just a glimpse of the incredible love that Jesus has for you and me.

Tonight, we’re going to look at just how deep, how wide, and how personal that love really is. I want us to pause the noise, pause the phones, pause the distractions and truly reflect on the most powerful force in the universe — the love of Jesus Christ. This love isn’t just an idea or a distant feeling — it’s alive, it’s active, it’s personal. It’s a love that that can never be broken.

This love for you changed all of history…but my heart fears some of us have lost contact with this love...Truth is if we choose tonight to reconnect to it, it can change your life.

We’re going to walk through some Scriptures that show just how deep, how wide, and how close His love really is — and how it meets us right where we are.

**1. His Love is Sacrificial**

John 15:13

*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.*

Jesus didn’t just say He loved us — He showed it. He laid down His life for you and me on the cross. Jesus’ love is sacrificial in its very nature, most clearly seen in His willingness to suffer and die on the cross for the sake of humanity. He did not have to endure the pain, rejection, and humiliation, but He chose to out of deep love for us. This kind of love goes beyond words or feelings—it is demonstrated through action, even when it comes at great personal cost.

His sacrifice was not just for those who loved Him back, but even for those who rejected and crucified Him. Romans 5:8 further emphasizes this by saying, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Jesus' sacrificial love is the ultimate example of what it means to put others first, to love unconditionally, and to give without expecting anything in return. Think about that — not when we were at our best, not when we had it all together, but when we were at our lowest, far from Him… that’s when He chose to die for us. His love cost Him everything so that you and I could have eternal life.

**2. His Love is Unfailing and Vast**

Paul prays in Ephesians 3:17–19 that we would truly understand:
*"…how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ…"*

You can’t measure His love.

* It’s *wide* enough to wrap around the entire world — and still have room for you.
* It’s *long* enough to last throughout eternity.
* It’s *high* enough to lift you into heaven.
* And it’s *deep* enough to reach you no matter how low you feel tonight.

This love is both unfailing and vast — a love that surpasses all human understanding and remains constant through every season of our lives. In a world where people’s love can be fickle and circumstances can shake our confidence, His love stands firm, unchanging, and eternal.

* Psalm 36:5 says, “*Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.”*

This means there is no place too far, no heart too broken, no sin too great that His love cannot reach and redeem. His love doesn’t depend on our performance or our worthiness; it flows from who He is — steadfast, merciful, and full of grace. When we truly grasp how vast His love is, it humbles us and gives us hope, knowing we are held securely in the arms of a Savior whose love will never fail.

Whatever you’re carrying, whatever you’ve done, you are not beyond His reach and His love.

**3. His Love Brings Freedom**

Revelation 1:5

*“…To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood…”*

This love brings true freedom — freedom from sin, shame, fear, and the chains that once held us captive. His sacrificial love on the cross broke the power of sin and opened the way for us to walk in newness of life. As Jesus Himself said in John 8:36, *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*

This freedom is not just the absence of bondage, but the presence of peace, joy, and purpose as we live in His grace. No longer slaves to guilt or the expectations of this world, we are free to become who God created us to be, to love others as He has loved us, and to live boldly for His glory. Jesus’ love liberates our hearts and gives us the strength to leave behind what once bound us, stepping into the abundant life He promises.

Because of His love, your past no longer defines you — His grace does.

**4. His Love is Personal**

Galatians 2:20

*“…the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

This is one of my favorite verses because it makes it so personal. Jesus didn’t just die for “the world”, He died for *you*.

This love is deeply personal — it is not just a general love for all humanity, but a specific, intimate love for you. He knows your name, your story, your struggles, your past, your dreams, and He loves you right where you are.

* Jesus says in John 10:14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.”

His love meets you in your darkest moments, rejoices with you in your victories, and walks with you through every trial. It’s a love that sees beyond the surface, understanding your heart better than you do yourself. This personal love means that you are never forgotten, never overlooked, and never alone. Jesus pursues you, calls you His own, and invites you into a relationship where you can experience the fullness of His grace and presence in a way that is unique to you.

That’s how personal His love is.

**5. His Love is Gentle and Inviting**

Matthew 11:28–29

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest…”*

This love is gentle and inviting, drawing us to Him with kindness and grace rather than force or fear. He doesn’t shame or condemn us, but meets us with compassion, understanding our weaknesses and offering rest for our weary souls.

* In Matthew 11:28-29 Jesus calls out tenderly,

*28 Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

His love welcomes us just as we are — weary, broken, hurting, or lost — and patiently leads us toward healing and wholeness. It’s a love that whispers peace to our hearts and gives us the courage to come closer, knowing we are safe in His presence.

You don’t have to clean yourself up first. You don’t have to have all the answers or have it all together. Just come. This love is open to anyone and everyone!

**6. His Love Redefines Love**

1 John 3:16

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us…*

Jesus’ love redefines what the world says love is. True love is not just a feeling or emotion, but a selfless, sacrificial commitment to seek the good of others. In a world that often equates love with convenience or personal gain, Jesus shows us a higher, purer standard. On the cross, He demonstrated that love means laying down your life for others, even for those who don’t deserve it.

His love teaches us that real love is patient, forgiving, and enduring — a choice to serve, to give, and to heal. When we encounter His love, it transforms our hearts and empowers us to love others in the same radical, unconditional way.

**Conclusion:**

How Will You Respond?

Jesus’ love isn’t just something to admire from a distance — it’s meant to be experienced deeply and personally, and it calls for a response.

So tonight, let me ask you:

— Have you opened your heart to truly receive His love?

— Are you living daily in the power and freedom of His love?

— Are you letting His love flow through you to touch the lives of others?

If not, you’re missing out on the most incredible, life-changing gift you’ll ever know. Don’t leave here tonight without responding to His love — because He’s here, waiting for you with open arms.

**Prayer**

Lord, we are in awe of Your incredible love — a love that saves us, frees us, restores us, and never lets go. Tonight, help us to really see how wide, long, high, and deep Your love is. And give us the grace to walk in that love and share it freely with everyone we meet. In Jesus’ name, Amen.