

September 19, 2026

Jesus Is The Savior – You Are Not

September Series: We Are The Church

Week Focus: Help Carry the Load

Scripture – John 13:34 - *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”*

Devotional Reflection

There is tremendous freedom in remembering that **Jesus is the Savior—and you are not**. Caring deeply for people can sometimes cause us to carry more than God has actually asked us to carry. We begin believing that if we say the right thing, work hard enough, pray long enough, or stay involved enough, we can somehow guarantee another person's outcome. But Jesus never called us to become somebody else's savior. He called us to **love one another as He has loved us**. Our responsibility is faithful love; salvation, transformation, and ultimate outcomes remain in His hands.

Notice where Jesus places the foundation of our love: **“As I have loved you.”** Christian care does not begin with our strength, wisdom, or ability to solve problems. It begins with remembering what Christ has already done for us. When we were separated from God by sin, Jesus did not merely offer advice from a distance—He came near. He went to the cross, gave His life for us, and rose again. **We love because we have been loved. We show grace because we have received grace. We move toward people because Christ moved toward us.** Everything we extend to others begins with what we have first received from Him.

Remembering this protects us from two unhealthy extremes. One is **indifference**, which says, “That's not my problem.” The other is trying to become indispensable, as though everything depends on us. The gospel gives us a better way. **I care—but Jesus saves. I support—but Jesus sustains. I walk with you—but Jesus remains Lord.** We can pray, encourage, listen, serve, speak truth, offer practical assistance, and remain present while refusing to take a place in someone's life that belongs only to Christ.

So when God places someone's burden within your reach, ask Him what part He is actually calling you to help carry. Maybe you cannot change tomorrow, **but you can make sure they do not face today alone**. Maybe you cannot remove the grief, but you can sit beside them. Maybe you cannot repair the situation, but you can pray and encourage. Maybe you cannot carry the entire load, but you can take one side. Then entrust the rest to Jesus. **We don't carry people because we are their Savior. We carry with people because we know the Savior who carried us.**

Focus for Today

We don't carry people because we are their Savior. We carry with people because we know the Savior who carried us.

Practice

- Ask yourself whether helping someone has quietly become trying to **save** them.
 - Identify what God is actually giving you grace and responsibility to help carry.
 - Release an outcome you have been trying to control and deliberately entrust it to Jesus.
 - Remind yourself: **"I care—but Jesus saves. I support—but Jesus sustains."**
 - Let your care today point someone toward Christ rather than making them dependent upon you.
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Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me first. Thank You for coming near when I could not save myself, for carrying my sin to the cross, and for giving me life through Your death and resurrection. Keep me from becoming indifferent to the burdens of others, but also keep me from trying to occupy a place that belongs only to You.

Teach me to love without controlling, support without rescuing, and serve without believing that everything depends on me. Show me what You are asking me to help carry, and give me the faith to entrust everything else to Your hands. Let the way I care for people point them toward You—the true Savior, Sustainer, and Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Question

Where might I be carrying responsibility that belongs to Jesus, and what would it look like to faithfully care while entrusting the outcome to Him?