

Jesus Christ: Our Example for Love

The holiday season is upon us. Even though Jesus Christ was born September 11th, 3BC, we can enjoy this time of the year as the world recognizes the birth of the Saviour. Any season or reason to mention Jesus Christ can only mean a brighter time for all.

Luke 2:6-11:

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring [announce] you good [glad] tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

The savior of mankind is born! His life and accomplishments would change mankind forever.

We want to examine the life of Jesus Christ and observe his actions of manifesting God's love so we can learn how to live like he did. This teaching will be from the Gospels, but his example of how to walk in love toward God and mankind certainly does carry over into our administration.

Obviously we could read the entire four Gospels to see this but we only have time for highlights.

Let's explore his mission because Jesus Christ lived his life according to his purpose for being.

Matthew 20:28:

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

John 4:34:

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 8:29:

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

Matthew 5:17,18:

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

The words recorded in the Old Testament gave him direction, guidance, and knowledge as to what he was to live by. The words recorded in the New Testament should be considered in our lives for direction, guidance, and knowledge for us to live by.

He was to fulfill all that was written about him in the law and the prophets. He condensed the commandments of the Law into two.

Matthew 22:37-40:

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Let's consider how Jesus Christ lived the love of God in action. First we see that he obeyed his mother. Plus we see that his mother had confidence in her son's ability and willingness to help.

John 2:1-5:

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.
His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do *it*.

This is his first miracle. He hadn't done any yet. However, she trusted that he could do something to help. His behavior growing up must have indicated his ability and willingness to get involved and solve problems.

John 2:6-11:

And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.
Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.
And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare *it*.
When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,
And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but* thou hast kept the good wine until now.
This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

He certainly had a commitment toward his Father; he manifested a strong zeal early on.

John 2:13-17:

And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,
And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:
And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;
And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.
And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

He was extremely concerned that his Father's house not be used as a souvenir shop but for the purpose God intended it for, a place of worship, to pray, to be thankful.

He took time to meet with and discuss God's Word with only one person. He taught incredible truths to just one person, Nicodemus; he didn't save the best for the masses.

John 3:1-8:

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:
The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.
Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, [*another*: from above] he cannot see the kingdom of God.
Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?
Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water [first birth: water breaks] and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.
The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

The Greek word translated wind is *pneuma* and should be translated "Spirit." It is used here to refer to God. The Greek word translated "bloweth" may also be translated "breathes." It could be translated: "The Spirit [God] blows or breathes where He wills." This is the figure of speech condescension, attributing human or other physical characteristics to God.

A person breathes to produce words. Likewise, God here is spoken of as breathing to produce words. A person can hear the evidence of God's breathing, that is, he can hear the words of God, but he cannot see God since He is Spirit. Thus it is with everyone who is born of God, born from above, who have received the gift of holy spirit. A person cannot see the spirit, but he can see the evidence of it when it is manifested. The context is dealing with the spiritual birth that Jesus Christ came to make available. Nicodemus did not understand this truth.

John 3:9-12:

Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?
Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel and knowest not these things?
Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.
If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of

heavenly things?

The gift of holy spirit was a reality that hadn't come yet. It became available to all of mankind after Jesus Christ had accomplished what was necessary for mankind's redemption and salvation. Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, and a master of Israel, should have known what the Scriptures said regarding the spirit that was to come. If he did not understand this foundational truth recorded in the Old Testament, how could he understand "heavenly things?"

John 3:13:

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven.

This verse is often construed as part of the words that Jesus said to Nicodemus. However, this would suggest that Jesus Christ had already ascended into heaven. It was true at the time the Gospel of John was written, but was added to help the reader understand the "heavenly things" that Jesus was teaching Nicodemus. It is a parenthetical statement that adds further explanation.

John 3:14,15:

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:
That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

What is recorded in verses 16-21 had not come to pass at the time of Jesus' speaking to Nicodemus. It was a future reality, but also was true when the Gospel of John was written. They are a digression that helps to explain in more detail verse 15.

John 3:16-21:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

This example of Jesus sharing the greatness of God's Word with only one individual sets the precedent of "each one win one." It doesn't have to be a multitude before you invest your precious time and effort. It just takes one hungry person and you having the willingness to have already learned God's Word to share it with them.

Jesus was traveling from Galilee to Jerusalem. He stops to ask for water and ends up having a discussion about how and where to worship God properly.

John 4:5-7:

Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour.

There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

Jesus initiates the conversation. He opens his mouth. Culturally a man could only speak to a woman in public about two things, a drink and directions. After a short discussion about living water Jesus asks a question based upon God giving him information via the spirit.

John 4:16-19:

Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

Her recognition about Jesus being a prophet comes from his operation of information he had received by revelation from his Father, God.

John 4:20-24:

Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.
God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Again what an incredible truth Jesus shares with just one individual.

John 4:25-30:

The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.
Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am *he*.
And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?
The woman then left her waterpot [like a purse in our culture], and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,
Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?
Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

The woman reached many because Jesus understood how to operate revelation, word of knowledge, word of wisdom. This is what impressed the woman enough for her to act and go tell others. If she was a huge sinner no one would believe her report. She had some integrity and influence in her community.

John 4:39-42:

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.
So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.
And many more believed because of his own word;
And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard *him* ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

The power in the spoken Word saved many. Jesus just asked for a drink, but his travel plans were interrupted for two days!

Do you want to do the work of God?

John 6:28, 29:

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Let's consider another loving example of Jesus.

John 9:1-12:

And as *Jesus* passed by, he saw a man which was blind from *his* birth.
And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?
Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.
I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.
As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.
When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,
And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.
The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?
Some said, This is he: others *said*, He is like him: *but* he said, I am *he*.
Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?
He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.
Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.

Jesus didn't hang around to take credit, he didn't publish it on the internet, he moved on with life, doing what God wanted him to do. He didn't make a big deal out of it.

John 9:28, 34:

Then they [the Pharisees] reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.
They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

He was ill treated for explaining how he was healed and by whom.

John 9:35-38:

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

Jesus went out of his way to find him in order to comfort him. The man was physically healed but now he would receive something greater; knowledge of who the savior was that led to his receiving spiritual healing.

Matthew 9:1-8:

And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city.

And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This *man* blasphemeth.

And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

For whether is easier, to say, *Thy* sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?

But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power [*exousia* – authority] on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

And he arose, and departed to his house.

But when the multitudes saw *it*, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power [*exousia* – authority] unto men.

Jesus had the authority from God to forgive sins. This freed this man from mental bondage that helped him believe for physical deliverance. Sometimes when you are working with people to build their believing for healing, you have to address past sins, mental obstacles committed that leave a person in mental bondage.

Matthew 14:14:

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

His compassionate nature is what motivated him to act, to help, to deliver the sick, to feed the multitudes, to pray for guidance.

Matthew 14:15-23:

And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.

And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

He said, Bring them hither to me.

And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to *his* disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

After this rather “full” day of activity, of manifesting God’s power, he made time to pray, to stay in touch with his Father. He understood the importance of knowing what the will of his Father was, of keeping in touch with the “Boss.”

Matthew 18:21, 22:

Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

This is a great example of the greater law of love in action. Jesus offers Peter doctrine, reproof, and correction. He understood that forgiveness -- both ways, forgiving others and being forgiven -- is a vital key to being mentally free in order to do the will of the Father.

He didn’t ignore the children because they couldn’t vote. He was an inspiration and example to them. He was the perfect role model. These children would then want to grow up to be not like “Mike” but like this itinerant preacher.

Matthew 19:13-15:

Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put *his* hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.
But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.
And he laid *his* hands on them, and departed thence.

Jesus is addressing the multitude on the plain [The Sermon on the Mount is in Matthew 5]. Jesus taught similar truths on many occasions. Foundational Biblical material is taught over and over, Jesus would do so also. He would not have taught great truths only once.

Luke 6:27-38:

But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.
And unto him that smiteth thee on the *one* cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not *to take thy* coat also.
Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again.
And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.
For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.
And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.
And if ye lend *to them* of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.
But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.
Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.
Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:
Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Today God's forgiveness is not conditioned upon our forgiving others because Christ has already paid for all of our sins. They have been totally forgiven and forgotten. Jesus cared. He was moved to action by his compassion. He took whatever time and effort it took to bring deliverance because he cared enough to get involved.

Luke 7:11-16:

And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.
Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.
And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.
And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare *him* stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.
And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.
And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

Jesus is addressing heart issues and motives. He taught that love is a higher standard to live by.

Luke 11:37-42:

And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat.
And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner.
And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness.
Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also?
But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.
But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

He's telling them to consider God's love first but not to stop keeping what the Law said about tithing. The Pharisees cared more for the approval of man than the approval of God.

Luke 11:43:

Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets.
Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over *them* are not aware *of them*.

Stepping on a grave accidently or not, would make one unclean, that is why they whited [painted] them so people could see them.

Jesus is in the middle of teaching great truths about how much his Father cares. Then he gets blindsided by one's self-interest.

Luke 12:13-15:

And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Then he continues teaching with a parable. He didn't belittle this person who interrupted him with his self-interest, for not listening to the greater truths. He didn't jump all over him. He makes his point and moves on.

Beware of what you really value, what you really love.

Luke 20:46, 47:

Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts;

Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation.

Jesus' apostles wanted high ranking important positions in his kingdom. They even fought amongst themselves about it. Jesus brought it back to what their service was supposed to truly be in this life.

Luke 22:25-27:

And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

But ye *shall not be* so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger [inferior]; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

For whether *is* greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? *is* not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

He was the example of being a servant to God and to his fellow man.

John 13:1-11:

Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded.

Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head.

Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

Jesus was always teaching by example in ways that conveyed his point. He washes Judas' feet even though he knew he would be betrayed by him. This is a great example of the love of God in action by loving your enemies.

John 13:12-17:

So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

You can only serve one master, the Lord or yourself.

Matthew 6:24:

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Jesus cared about what was going to happen to his disciples. He stood in the gap for them. He made intercessory prayer on their behalf.

Luke 22:31, 32:

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *to have* you, that he may sift *you* as wheat:
But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

He knew they would need help when his work on earth was completed.

John 14:15-21:

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;
Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.
I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.
Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.
At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Without the Comforter, the gift of holy spirit, God in Christ in them [what verse 20 is describing], they would be left powerless, joyless and defenseless.

John 15:7-18:

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.
If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

These things I command you, that ye love one another.

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.

He'll give it to us so we can produce fruit that glorifies our Father. Even at the end of his life he had the presence of mind to take care of his mother. He never lost direction or sense of purpose.

John 19:25-27:

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

His presence of mind was with him until the end, even throughout all his pain and suffering.

Luke 23:42, 43:

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Even in his resurrected body he is an example to us of love.

Luke 24:36-44:

And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them *his* hands and *his* feet.

And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

And he took *it*, and did eat before them.

And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

He did everything God wanted him to do to reassure his disciples that God had the ability and the power to raise him from the dead. This signified that they would be eternally rewarded if they lived their lives in love for him. They could trust that whatever promises he had made, like the Comforter being sent and their resurrection from the dead, would come to pass.

Luke 24:45:

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

This is what he is continuing to do for us today, opening our understanding of the Scriptures so we can love and worship God correctly in our day and time. The resurrected Christ comforted and taught many until he was taken up into heaven.

John 14:12-15:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Let's follow Jesus Christ's lead and do the works he did and the greater works which is available today; getting people born again of God's Spirit. Let's live love by keeping his commandments, which are not burdensome but are richly rewarding, being joyful and fruitful.

At all times we should be ready and willing to announce to others that the Christ really did come and that he died on behalf of mankind in order that we could live a more than abundant life. Let's serve God with our whole body, soul, and spirit doing whatever He needs us to do to glorify Him. Let's rise above all personal prejudice to live on a higher plain, the plain of love, in order to be unified to move together as one body continuing to love God and our neighbor just like Jesus did, who left us with plenty of examples.