

“Love is Willing to Do the Difficult”

John 20:15

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Communion Devotion

A tired father comes home from work ready to relax but instead spends two hours helping his children with their homework. Why would he do that?

A mother must get up early to go to work but instead of a good night's sleep, she spends most of the night by the bedside of her sick child. Why would she do that?

A friend goes to another and asks for forgiveness for unkind things said and done. Why would he do that?

Members of our church go on mission trips, at great expense to themselves, to help others less fortunate. Why would they do that?

The answer to these questions is rather simple. Each makes sacrifices because love is willing to do the difficult. Nowhere is this better seen in the Bible than the resurrection passage in John 20. Let me share it with you.

Mary Magdalene was one of several that went on Easter morning to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. You recall that the stone had been rolled away revealing the empty tomb. After a period of time, everyone left the gravesite except for Mary. She remained at the empty tomb by herself.

Jesus appeared to her but she did not recognize him. She thought he was the gardener. When he asked her why she was crying and who she was looking for, she replied, **“Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will go get him” John 20:15.**

What a moving request Mary made. One scholar referred to it as the “splendid language of loyal love.”

Can you imagine how difficult this would have been for Mary? First of all, it would have been almost physically impossible for Mary to carry a corpse on her own. She would have hardly been equal to the task.

It would have been just as challenging emotionally, though. Jesus completely changed her life for the better when he healed her. He certainly did what no one else had ever done for her and from that point on he became her savior and Lord. You can imagine how grateful she felt for the difference he made in her life.

You can see why it would have required all the physical and emotional strength she could have mustered to carry Jesus back to his original burial site. So, why was she willing to do it? Because love is willing to do the difficult.

We are reminded of that this morning as we look at the elements on this table. The bread and juice represent the ultimate sacrifice that one person can make for another. Jesus gave his life as an atonement for sin. Why? Because love is willing to do the difficult.

What should be our response today? Certainly, we need to thank him for the sacrifices he made on our behalf. But then, we also need to follow his example. We need to be willing to make sacrifices for God and others because we love them.

What is it you need to do for God, another or even yourself that will be difficult but best? Do you need to forgive someone, apologize, go to a counselor and repair a relationship, control your temper, curb your spending, be honest and truthful, go to church, go back to school or share your faith? Why would you do it? Ask Mary and Jesus. They will tell you. Love is willing to do the difficult. And aren't we glad it is?