

A Father's Love

When I was all wrong, inside and out...when I was so blind I didn't want to change...when I was so helpless I could not change, Jesus took responsibility for me. He took it upon himself to save me from my own sin and the death He knew it would bring me.

When that meant sacrifice, He was there. When it meant incredible suffering, He was there. When it meant submitting himself to abuse, humiliation, and death, He was there for me.

Because I was blind, proud, and completely helpless, He carried me and all my guilt on His back. He died for my sins so that I wouldn't have to.

If my wife or children were in danger, I'd do anything to save them. No matter what the threat or the cost, I'd be there. I'd gladly step into the gap for them. That's the way Jesus felt about me when I was far away from Him, when I didn't know Him and didn't care.

Jesus' life wasn't taken from Him. He laid it down willingly, and the Bible accounts bear that out. He knew ahead of time all the suffering that awaited Him, but He faced it anyway.

- He was betrayed by a close friend.
- He let himself be taken by those who hated Him and were eager to kill Him.
- He went through an illegal trial and was falsely accused, yet He never tried to defend himself.
- He was severely beaten and had a crown of thorns pressed onto His head.
- He was mocked and publicly humiliated. He watched and listened as the people He loved screamed for His execution.
- Finally, He was nailed to a wooden cross and hung there to die slowly while His enemies jeered and His mother watched and wept.

Jesus knows love. He knows how much it costs. He knows how much it can hurt. Nothing can break our hearts like our children when they turn away from us, trample our love, and slowly destroy themselves in the process. Jesus lived out a parent's perfect love.

Every day, through every word and action, He showed us our Father's heart toward us. And He showed it most eloquently, most poignantly, most completely in His death.

We look around at creation and see our Father's lavish love and care for us. But creation flows from the unmeasured abundance of His riches. Though the universe is so vast and varied, the Creator is undiminished by giving it.

But in Jesus, we see the Creator's love more fully. We see Him pouring himself out completely, unreservedly for us.

That's love. That's our Creator. And His Fatherly love burns as passionately today, for you and for your loved ones, as it did two thousand years ago. *His love endures forever* (Psalm 136:1, NIV).

HYMN: [Your Ceaseless, Unexhausted Love](#)

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