

By John Ames

THE GREATEST TESTAMENT OF GODS LOVE

As I was working on this message I asked the question (talking to my phone) what is the greatest testament of God's love ? I was surprised at the answer, I was expecting an answer like- God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. What came up was Mathew 22:36-40

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 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. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

A little confusing at first I was expecting something like a testimony of God's character, what I found was the word testament biblically means covenant ! ok I grasp that concept the Old and New Covenant !

We will get back to Mathew 22 in a minute, my next search was "what is the greatest example of God's love" ok now I am getting the answers I was looking for it came up with statements about communion! It was mentioning verses like John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ok its starting to fit , Mathew 22 says to love God completely with everything even unto death, when we look at Jesus's journey to the cross he stops by the garden with his disciples and prays.

Mathew 26:36-46 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. 37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. 38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. 40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. 42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. 43 And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. 44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

Jesus is in the prime of his life ! he could have chosen to beat feet, but we see Jesus loving the Father with all his heart, soul, mind and strength, even though it meant his life. What a perfect example to follow! We step into the second part of Mathew 22 loving your neighbour as yourself- Mathew 15:13 Jesus says; Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. And Jesus went to the cross for us his friends! And it all takes place here ! at the communion table! The Greatest Testament of God's love, and the

Greatest Example of God's love. God gave us his Son out of his love for us, as we take communion today let us honor that Sacrifice by sharing that love with one another, let us take communion.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. AMEN