

# No Greater Life

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John 15:13

For the past three months I've stood at this pulpit on Sunday mornings and magnified the wonderful doctrine of the love of God. I tell you again this morning— God loves you. I can tell you no greater news than that!

A couple was relaxing late one evening. The wife began flirting with her husband. "Honey, how much do you love me?" she asked.

"My love for you knows no bounds," he replied.

"Would you swim across the ocean for me?" she asked.

"I'd swim the widest ocean for you!" he promised.

"Would you climb a mountain for me?" she asked.

"I'd climb Mount Everest for you!" he bragged.

"Would you go to the store and get a mocha latte for me?" she asked.

(Long pause.) "Oh, Sweetheart," he began. "It's late, and I already took my shoes off."

We chuckle, but the truth is when it comes to love, most of the time we'd much rather feel it or talk about it rather than demonstrate it.

Not so with the Lord—"*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*" (Rom. 5:8).

- ➡ The Lord Jesus Christ did not swim the widest ocean for us—instead He crossed the divide between heaven and earth. He did not climb Mount Everest for us—instead, He climbed Mount Calvary—to bleed and die on an old rugged cross for our sins.

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For the past few weeks I've been preaching from John 15:13—"*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*" We have expounded from this text...

- There is No Greater Love than Christ's
- There is No Greater Mercy than Christ's
- There is No Greater Sacrifice than Christ's

This morning, I want us to focus on **the life** Jesus laid down for us. There has been **No Greater Life** than the life of Christ.

In 1965, United Artists released the movie *“The Greatest Story Ever Told,”* depicting the life of Jesus, from His birth to His Resurrection. The director, George Stevens, shot over 1,000 miles of film and turned it into a four-hour extravaganza.

It received mixed reviews. Critics complained the film made Jesus’ life seem boring! Our Lord’s life was many things, but it was **not boring!** It was the greatest life ever lived... the fullest and most exciting life imaginable... A life rich in love—love for God and love for people.

Director George Stevens got one thing right. The life of Jesus Christ was, and is, and always will be the “greatest story ever told.”

ONE SOLITARY LIFE: He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or a home. He didn’t go to college.

He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends abandoned Him. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for His garments, the only property He had on earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of human history. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, all the presidents ever elected put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as this “One Solitary Life.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> James A. Francis, *“The Real Jesus and Other Sermons”* (Judson Press, 1926), p. 123

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT JESUS Christ is the greatest Man who has ever lived in all of history. The positive impact of Jesus Christ on the world cannot be overstated. He changed the world forever.

1. **Our calendars** are dated by **His birth** — BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini—in the year of our Lord).
2. **More books** have been written about Jesus Christ than any other person in history. **More songs** have been sung about Him than any other person.
3. The world before Christ was a world without **hospitals**. Hospitals were an innovation of Christianity. Hence the healing symbol of a cross represents hospitals.
  - The **nursing profession** was founded by Christians, such as Florence Nightingale, out of her devotion to Christ.
4. Jesus Christ was the **greatest Teacher** the world has ever known. *“He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes”* (Mk. 1:22).
  - The **first universities in Europe** grew out of monastic missionary centers. The first university lecturers were Christian missionary monks.
  - The **first universities in America**—Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, etc. were originally Christian institutions established to train preachers.
5. The greatest invention since His birth was **the printing press**. It was invented by a Christian named Johannes Gutenberg. The first book He printed was the Bible!
6. The Bible—The greatest Book ever written! More copies of the Bible have been printed than any other book in all of history. It is estimated that over 30 million Bibles and 100 million New Testaments are printed every year. The Bible has been **translated into more languages** than any other book in history. And who is the central character of this Book? THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!

**What set the life of Jesus Christ apart from the lives of other men?**

The difference is Jesus Christ did not stay dead! He promised before His

death, ***"I WILL RISE"*** (Mt. 27:63), and rise He did! He arose from the grave after three days and later ascended back to heaven. He is alive today interceding for us!

There is **No Greater Story**, because it is the story of...

**No Greater MAN** — The Lord Jesus Christ

➡ Who demonstrated **No Greater LOVE** — The Love of Christ

➡ Who made **No Greater SACRIFICE** when He died on the cross for our sins.

➡ Who worked **No Greater MIRACLE** when He rose from the dead on the third day.

➡ Who offers **No Greater GIFT** — Salvation! (Eph. 2:8-9)

➡ Who gives **No Greater LIFE** — Eternal Life (Rom. 6:23)

Jesus prayed, *"And **this is life eternal**, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent"* (John 17:3).

**This life can be your life**— *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, **that we might live through him.**"* —1 John 4:9

- Did you catch it? God sent Jesus to die for us ***"that we might live THROUGH HIM."*** Not through church... good works... sacraments.

1 John 5:11-12—*This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and **this life is in his Son.** He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

➡ Do you have **Jesus** today?