

No Greater Love (part 1)

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

—John 15:13

Melbourne, Australia, is home to the Shrine of Remembrance, a war memorial honoring those who died for their country. The highlight of the shrine is a hall containing a carved stone tablet inscribed with the words, Greater Love Hath No Man. Every year on the 11th day of the 11th month at 11:00

2. Matthew 5:44— *Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*
3. Mark 8:36— *What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*
4. Luke 6:31— *As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.* (Commonly misquoted, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”)
5. Matthew 23:11— *He that is greatest among you shall be your servant.*
6. Acts 20:35— *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*
7. Luke 14:11— *Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*
8. John 14:6— *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
9. John 3:3— *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*
10. John 3:16— *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.*

The Lord Praiser and the Beneficent

- B. Great in His Works. “*Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?*” (Matt. 13:54). Jesus said, “*The same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*” (John 5:36).

➡ Jesus did what no other man ever could do.

1. Fed 5,000 with a few loaves of bread and a couple of fishes.
2. Commanded the wind and storm to cease.
3. Healed a man born blind.
4. Raised the dead.
5. Raised from the dead.

There are many accounts of men who died on a day and another. Certain, *anyone* giving his life on a day and another is a wonderful thing. But the facts are talking about Jesus, God manifested in the flesh,

dying for the in of the whole world. That is something remarkable!
 ing!

II. The greatness of the MEASURE

➡ No one measures the sacrifice. Little is the sacrifice of the
 Great is the sacrifice of the man.

➡ No greater sacrifice has ever offered than Christ's sacrifice.

➡ No man gave up more than Christ. Glorious of Heaven; unbroken
 fellowships in the Father; enemies of absolute holiness.

A. When you hear the word sacrifice, what comes to mind?

Do you imagine the firefighter on 9/11 who charged into the
 Twin Towers to save others?

Do you think of the sacrifice of gallant soldiers who give their
 lives on the battlefield for the love of their country?

B. Throughout the history of the world, sacrifice means
 something given up for the good in hope. It is a drop of blood
 on the altar, a plow, a crop, a field, or the life of a
 soldier. Of these, the sacrifice of the man is the greatest.

Archaeologists have found human bones buried in the foundation
 of Roman houses, temples, and bridges. Buried here in
 the belief that the sacrifice of the man would protect the city.

When the Aztecs constructed the Great Temple of Tenochtitlan
 (ā-noch-ē-'lān) in 1487, over 80,000 prisoners were sac-
 rificed in honor of the god. A very great sacrifice! In fact, a
 terrible bloodbath!

The Romans, the Aztecs, and many other ancient people, be-
 lieved the gods would die because others had died.

➡ THE PEACE CHILD

In 1962, Christian missionaries Don and Carol Richardson began their
 work among the Sani people of New Guinea. The Sani were a violent tribe
 of headhunters and cannibals.

The Sani believed in a magic. Amazingly, he believed he be-
 came a hero. Each time the Richardson

ried o e plain Chri dea h on he cro , he Sa i o ld cheer he par hen J da be ra ed Chri i h a ki .

One da , a neighboring ribe a cked, beginning a ar ha in en ified o er man eek . Finall , he Richard on old he illage chief ha if he ar did no end, he and Carol o ld need o lea e.

The chief ook ha hrea er erio l . The ribe had come o rel on Carol medical kill and al ed Don eel ool . The chief decided i a ime o make peace.

Soon hereaf er, he arrior of bo h ribe ga hered. The faced each o her acro a clearing in he j ngle, he member of each ribe anding in a line, ho lder- o- ho lder.

When e er one a in place, he chief of he Richard on illage ook hi infan on hi fir born on from he arm of hi di ra gh ife. Kno ing ha a o come, he fell o he gro nd, ailing in grief.

The chief carried hi infan on, pa hi o n arrior . A he did, each man in rn placed hi hand on he bab bo . Then, he chief alked o he ro of enem arrior and handed hi on o he enem chief.

Tha chief ook he bab and alked pa hi arrior . Each arrior in rn placed hi hand on he child. Then he enem chief rned i h hi arrior and alked off in o he j ngle i h he infan on. The child paren o ld ne er ee heir on again. He became he peace child. B ribal radi ion, o long a he bo li ed, he o illage o ld be a peace i h each o her.

A fe da la er, he Richard on bro gh he illage elder oge her. Don again old hem he or of Je . Thi ime, he in rod ced Je a God Peace Child.

He helped he Sa i ee ha he people of hi orld ere once a ar i h God. So God ga e Hi Son hi fir born Son o end he ho ili ie . I a a grea acrifice, a acrifice mo i a ed b he grea e lo e God lo e for ho e ho ere Hi enemie ! Thi pic re of Je a he Peace Child cliked i h he Sa i and man came o a ing fai h.

The account of the Richard on work in the Sa i became a book entitled *"The Peace Child."* The account of God work through Christ death on Calvary also became a Book a Book called The Bible.

From beginning to end, the Bible grand theme is no greater love. From beginning to end, the Bible tells the story of God plan to make reconciliation possible through the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

Think of that! Jesus is our Peace Child. Because of His great sacrifice, our earth has been brought into existence. I am a man because of the inner word. Once we were in motion we could not stop. But God could. And God did. In amazing love, He sent His only begotten Son into our sin-racked world to bring peace (Rom. 5:1).

➔ There is no greater sacrifice than Christ's sacrifice on the cross. There is no greater love than His.

III. The greatness of the MANIFESTATION.

➔ Jesus laid down His life. *"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us..."* (1 John 3:16).

No man took Christ's life from Him (John 10:17-18). Death is the result of sin (James 1:15). *The wages of sin is death* (Rom. 6:23). *The soul that sinneth, it shall die* (Ezek. 18:20). **But Jesus had no sin** therefore death had no claim upon Him. To die for our sin, Jesus had to **"LAY DOWN HIS LIFE"** of His own accord. On the cross He gave up His body. I am a man because the nail has killed Jesus. Jesus **"LAID DOWN HIS LIFE"** on the cross.

A. Our love **defines what love is**. Biblical love is not a matter of emotional sentiment. It is sacrificial. The essence of love is to care for someone enough to die for them. This is what Christ did for the church (Eph. 5:25).

B. Only Jesus Christ repaid the love of love, for He not only died for His friend, but also His enemies. Listen to Paul's word: *"For when we were yet WITHOUT STRENGTH, in due time Christ died for the UNGODLY. Scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet per adventure for a good man some would even dare*

to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while WE WERE YET SINNERS, Christ died for us...when we were ENEMIES, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son." (Rom. 5:7-8, 10). Christ died for every Sinner, a heifer, murderer, blasphemer, fornicator, drug addict, and errorist on the face of the earth.

Truly, "***G e a e l e h a h a h a h i***

1. Who would die for? Spouse or children, parent or friend or neighbor?
2. Would die for or for enemy? One who had no, had no love for, and would kill if he could?
3. Do you know an one who would die for you?

SUMMATION: Peter Miller was a preacher of the Gospel during the Revolutionary War. He lived near a man who hated him in England and when he opposed him and ridiculed his followers. One day this man was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death.

When Peter Miller heard about his execution on foot in exchange for the man's life before George Washington. Washington listened to Miller's plea, but told him he didn't feel he would pardon his friend. "My friend? He is no my friend," answered Miller. "In fact, he's my mortal enemy." "What!" said Washington. "You have walked 60 miles to see the life of your enemy? That's the matter in a different light. I will grant you a request."

With pardon in hand, Miller hastened to the place where his enemy was to be executed. He arrived just as his enemy was walking to the scaffold. When he raised a Miller, he sneered, "Old Peter Miller has come to have his revenge by watching me hang!" But he amazed a Miller stepped off the crowd and produced the pardon which pardoned his enemy's life.

Peter Miller accepted a had of his Christ, because Christ not only obtained his enemy's pardon, but died so he could be pardoned! ***G e a e l e h a h a h a h i , h a a a l a d h i l i f e f o r h i f i e d*** (and his enemy).