

Devotion 13: Go to Jesus to Find Love

Audience: For Patient and Caregiver

Theme: Go to Jesus and learn from him!

Bible Passage: *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light* (Matthew 11:28-30).

Devotion: Do you love me? How many times have we asked this question only to wonder in our hearts whether the person who responded truly meant what he said. So much in the world today passes for love, but may fall well short of the true meaning of this wondrous gift from God.

The Lord refers to love many times in the Scriptures, tying love for Him directly to love for our neighbors (which includes loved ones, friends, acquaintances, and even our enemies).

When asked, “What is the greatest commandment?” Jesus replied: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the prophets* (here Jesus is referring to the entire Old Testament Scriptures) *hang on these two commandments* (Matthew 22:37-40).

Paul tells us, *Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law* (Romans 13:10). This shows how important God considers love to be—for Him and for each other. Love is the very essence of God’s holy will!

We have further insight into God’s highest regard for love with these words: *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love . . . No one has ever seen God; but if we love each other, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us . . . whoever lives in love, God lives in him* (1 John 4:7-16). Jesus, whom God sent into this world that we might have life now and for eternity, is the very embodiment of God’s love.

Jesus sums up God’s will concerning love with these words: *A new commandment I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another* (John 13:34). This is God-worked love—a self-giving love that the world cannot offer us or teach us.

Lord, teach us how to love—to love you and one another. Amen.

Bible Readings: Psalm 119 (Love for God’s Word); Luke 6:27-35 (Love for our enemies); 1 Corinthians 13 (Love is the greatest).