

LIVING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

A few months ago, my wife (Martha) and I were on the island of Kauai in the Hawaiian Islands. I've been on three of the islands comprising the Hawaiian Island chain: Oahu, Maui, and Kauai. Of all three islands visited, Kauai is by far my favorite. It is the least commercialized of the three. The largest town on the island is Lihue, which only has a population of 1,200 people.

One thing we immediately noticed about Kauai are the chickens. They are everywhere. These feral chickens are protected by state law, so no one can catch them and take them home for dinner. Consequently, everywhere we went, there were chickens strutting around. There were no bugs, no snakes, no crickets – just chickens. (I think the chickens eat all the bugs and baby snakes).

One afternoon, Martha and I went down to the beach in Poipu (a town near Lihue). As I sat on a grassed area near the beach enjoying the sun and the soothing sounds of the ocean surf, guess what I saw? Chickens! Chickens running around on the beach! Again, they were everywhere!

I saw a Mama hen with her little chick close beside her. For several minutes, the Mama hen would take her right claw and scratch the grass and then lowered her head to peck the ground. The little baby chick looked intently at the Mama hen, as the Mama hen repeated these actions a few times. Then, as the Mama hen started to claw the ground and then peck the ground, I saw the baby chick put forth its tiny clawed foot and gently scratch the ground and then lowered her head to peck the ground. This cycle repeated itself for minute after minute after minute.

What I had observed was the Mama hen teaching her young baby chick how to claw and peck for food. The Mama hen showed her chick how to do it. The baby chick watched. Then the baby chick started imitating the Mama hen while the Mama hen was repeating the actions. Finally, the baby chick began to claw and peck the ground while the Mama hen just watched.

As I watched this learning session unfold on the beaches of Kauai, I thought of the fact that Jesus came to this earth and left us a wonderful perfect example that we should imitate, just like that little chick imitated its Mama hen.

Please turn with me to 1 Corinthians 11, where the Apostle Paul exhorted the Corinthian congregation to do something very important.

1 Corinthians 11:01 (King James Version) – “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

The King James Version translates this verse very poorly. A better translation is given in the New Living Translation.

1 Corinthians 11:01 (New Living Translation) – “And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”

The Greek word for “even” (KJV) or “just” (NLT) is “καθὼς” (kathós – meaning to the extent of). The important point is that the imitating is of Christ and His life.

So, the best translation of this verse would be “Imitate me to the extent that I imitate Christ.”

So, just as a baby chick imitates the actions of the Mama hen, we are to imitate the actions of our Savior, Jesus the Anointed One. And that imitation should be the framework of our daily lives.

Please turn with me to 1 John 2. The Apostle John discusses this imitation.

1 John 2:01 – “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: **:02** – And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*. **:03** – And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. **:04** – He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **:05** – But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. **:06** – He that saith he abideth in him [Jesus] ought himself also so to walk, even as he [Jesus] walked.”

So, we are to walk as Jesus walked and to live a life patterned after the way that Jesus lived His life, which exemplified the way of life of our Heavenly Father.

Brethren, in my message this afternoon entitled “Living the Example of Jesus”, I would like to explore examples of Jesus that He left us so that we would follow in His footsteps. And we’ll do this in six examples that Jesus left us.

The first example of Jesus that we should imitate is:

1) Humility

There is no better example of humility than the example of Jesus the Anointed One.

Please turn with me to Philippians 2, and we will read of the incredible humility of Jesus.

Philippians 2:05 – “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **:06** – Who, being in the form of God [ὑός θεος – *ho theos – the God – God Our Father*], thought it not robbery to be equal with God [ὑός θεος – *ho theos – the God – God Our Father*]: **:07** – But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: **:08** – And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

For an eternity in the past, Jesus had been at our Heavenly Father’s right hand, second in command of all the universe and all the spiritual realm. Jesus was a powerful Elohim. Yet, because of His love for His Father and for His love for His future brothers and sisters, He humbled Himself by emptying Himself of being a powerful Elohim to becoming a flesh and blood human.

Throughout His life on earth, Jesus the Anointed One showed humility toward His Father and toward others. Please turn with me to Mark 10, and we will read how Jesus deflected all honor and glory to our Heavenly Father.

Mark 10:17 – “And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? **:18** – And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God [Ὁ ΘΕΟΣ – *ho theos* – the God – God Our Father].”

In his humility, Jesus always deflected any glory, any accolade, or any honor to His Father. He never accepted that for Himself.

Please turn with me back to John 5, and we will reread where Jesus shows His humility and subservience to His Heavenly Father.

John 5:19 – “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”

In humility, Jesus publicly proclaimed that He could do nothing of Himself, except what He could do by following the example of His Father. He did not accept honor and glory to Himself.

Please turn with me to John 13. On the last night of His physical life, Jesus instituted a great example of humility – the washing of feet. In Judea at the time, men wore sandals. The main way of traveling from place to place was by foot – by walking. And in walking, everything that was on the ground where they were walking – such as dirt, mud, grass and manure – would wind up on their feet.

Washing feet was a necessary act in entering homes to keep the homes clean. The act of washing feet was viewed as the most lowly action or task that could be performed. That task was normally assigned to the lowest rank of individual in the household – usually to a lowly servant or a child. But what did Jesus do?

John 13:04 – “He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. **:05** – After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded. [Skip] **:12** – So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? **:13** – Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. **:14** – If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. **:15** – For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.”

Jesus told His disciples that He was indeed their master and lord. But as their master and lord, He humbled Himself to take on the task of a lowly servant to wash His disciples' feet. And after having done that, He told His disciples that He had given them an example for them (and by extension, us) to follow.

Brethren, are we willing to wash the feet of our fellow brethren in Christ? Not just physically at Passover each year, but daily in the way that we serve one another and treat one another? Do we show humility in the way that we approach others and treat others with the way that we act towards them, with the way that we speak with them, and the attitudes that we show towards them?

Please turn with me back to Philippians 2, where the Apostle Paul describes how we are to show humility to others.

Philippians 2:03 – *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”*

As we read previously in the verses that follow, this is also the mind of Jesus the Anointed One.

Brethren, do we do that? Do we truly esteem others better or higher than ourselves? Do we truly give the “bigger slice of pie” to another person? Do we always have to win? Do we always have to be “right”? Is everything in life a competition, where there has to be a winner and a loser? Can we be humble enough to let someone else “win”?

One of my best friends, Arthur Suckling, used to always say, “If you have a choice between being right and being kind, choose being kind. He was so spot-on in his saying. Brethren, we always have another opportunity to be right, but we don’t always have another opportunity to be kind to someone.

Please turn with me to Romans 12. Paul gives us another exhortation.

Romans 12:10 – *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;”*

The Greek verb “to prefer” in this verse is “προεγέομαι” (proegéomai – meaning to consider others as being more important). So, the Apostle Paul is telling us that we should consider others as being more important than ourselves).

Brethren, do we do that? Do we look to others in humility to see ways that we can serve them, to help them, to protect them, to encourage them? Or do we find ourselves making our lives all about us. We live in a society that screams “Me, me, me, me.” Do we give in to that societal noise that is totally influenced by our adversary, the evil one?

Jesus left us a perfect wonderful example of humility in the way that He lived His life. Are we living that example of Jesus in our daily lives?

The second example of Jesus that we should imitate is:

2) Compassion & Service

Throughout the life of Jesus on the earth, in example after example, Jesus showed compassion towards others. Let’s explore just a few of these examples.

Please turn with me to Matthew 9. Jesus was always quick to show compassion.

Matthew 9:35 – “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. **:36** – But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”

Please turn with me to Matthew 14. John the Baptist had just been executed. Jesus was grieving because of the death of His cousin. He wanted to be alone. But what happened?

Matthew 14:13 – “When Jesus heard of it [*the death of John the Baptist*], he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities. **:14** – And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.”

Jesus wanted to be alone, but He saw the multitude, and His heart melted and He was moved with compassion toward them. We then read that He fed them all with fish and bread when the disciples wanted to send them all away. And there were 5,000 people who had followed to hear Him and to be healed by Him when all He humanly wanted was to be alone to grieve for His cousin. What an example of selfless compassion!

Another example of Jesus’ compassion is given in Luke 7 when Jesus entered into the city of Nain.

Luke 7:12 – “Now when he [*Jesus*] came nigh to the gate of the city [*of Nain*], behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. **:13** – And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. **:14** – And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare *him* stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. **:15** – And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.”

Jesus saw the grief of the woman and her friends, and He was moved with compassion and raised the dead son back to life.

There are so many more examples. In Matthew 20:34, we read of the compassion of Jesus in healing the two blind men in Jericho. In Mark 1:41, we read of the compassion of Jesus in healing the leper in Galilee.

Jesus was moved with compassion to help people in their difficulties, to lead people who were lost, to teach people of the truth, to heal people of their sicknesses, and to comfort people in the grief. Jesus was moved with compassion and acted on that compassion to serve others. Compassion is empty without action. Without action, it is just virtue signaling. Compassion moves our hearts to do, to intervene, to help, and to serve.

Brethren, Jesus left us great examples of compassion. Do we show that compassion in our own daily lives?

Please turn with me to Luke 10, and we will read the famous parable of the Good Samaritan.

Luke 10:30 – “And Jesus answering said, A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. **:31** – And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **:32** – And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on *him*, and passed by on the other side. **:33** – But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, **:34** – And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **:35** – And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. **:36** – Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? **:37** – And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”

The Samaritan had compassion on the injured man. He did not wait for someone else to assist and save the man. His compassion moved him to act. At the end of the parable, Jesus commanded us that we should do likewise.

Brethren, do we act on our compassion for others in their needs? Or do we only have fleeting emotional sympathy for others, salving our conscience that someone else will intervene and fulfill the needs of others.

Please turn with me to James 2. The opposite of the compassion that Jesus showed to others is exemplified in James' epistle to the called-out ones.

James 2:14 – “What *doth it profit*, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? **:15** – If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, **:16** – And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it profit*? **:17** – Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”

Brethren, do we act to help and serve others? Our compassion for others should make us act to help and serve others in need, not just to acknowledge momentarily that there is a need and then to forget about it. Otherwise, it is just warm empty words and empty sympathy toward others that do nothing to change the situation of others.

Jesus was a man of action. His compassion led to actual actions which resolved the problems of others. He did not talk about doing it. He did not proclaim that something should be done. He actually did actions which helped others in need.

Jesus left us a perfect wonderful example of compassion and service in the way that He lived His life. Are we living that example of Jesus in our daily lives?

The third example of Jesus that we should imitate is:

3) Suffering

Jesus the Anointed One came to this earth as a man to suffer. Please turn with me to Isaiah 53. This suffering was prophesied millennia ago by Isaiah in a well-known portion of scripture.

Isaiah 53:02 – “For he [Jesus] shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him. **:03** – He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. **:04** – Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. **:05** – But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

So, Jesus was prophesied to be a man of grief, a man of sorrows, a man who would be despised by all, a man who would be smitten and afflicted.

Please turn with me to Luke 22. At end of his physical life, Jesus knew that He would have to endure suffering.

Luke 22:14 – “And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. **:15** – And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:”

At the institution of the New Testament symbols of the Passover, Jesus announced that He desired to have this new service with His disciples before He suffered. Jesus knew the intense agony, torture, pain, and suffering that He would have to endure in just a few short hours after He spoke these words.

Just as Jesus suffered, all of us as followers of Jesus will suffer when we follow His example.

Please turn with me to 1 Peter 2, and we will read about Jesus and suffering.

1 Peter 2:19 – “For this *is* thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. **:20** – For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. **:21** – For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: **:22** – Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: **:23** – Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:”

So, Jesus left us an example of suffering that we are to follow. He suffered, and we will suffer.

Please turn with me to 2 Corinthians 2. We will suffer, but our Heavenly Father will comfort us in our afflictions and our sufferings.

2 Corinthians 1:03 – “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; **:04** – Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. **:05** – For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.”

So, the Apostle Paul is telling us that the sufferings of Jesus will be in abundance in our lives, and our Heavenly Father and Jesus will comfort us in those sufferings.

Please turn with me to Philippians 1. The Apostle Paul wrote much about our sufferings in this life.

Philippians 1:29 – “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; **:30** – Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.”

So, we are to suffer for Jesus and for our following of His way and His example in our lives.

Please turn with me to 1 Peter 4. Many times, we are exhausted and bewildered by the number and severity of the trials and tribulations that beset us. Sometimes we are just surprised that we have all the deep problems that we have. Peter addresses this.

1 Peter 4:12 – “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: **:13** – But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Brethren, don't be surprised when we have severe trials because we are to be partakers of the sufferings of Jesus the Anointed One.

Please turn with me to Romans 8. Present suffering and later glorification go hand in hand together. Paul addresses this in his epistle to the Romans.

Romans 8:16 – “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: **:17** – And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

So, we are to suffer with Jesus for the same reasons that Jesus suffered. This is not a Godly world. This present age is ruled and influenced by the evil one. And consequently, we shall suffer. Do we suffer with conviction, with steadfastness, with total faith in our Heavenly Father, with total dedication to Him, without wavering, without doubting, without crumbling?

Jesus left us a perfect wonderful example of suffering in the way that He lived His life. Are we living that example of Jesus in our daily lives?

The fourth example of Jesus that we should imitate is:

4) Sacrifice

Jesus the Anointed One came to this earth to be a sacrifice for all. Please turn with me to Ephesians 5. Paul discusses this sacrifice.

Ephesians 5:01 – “Be ye therefore followers of God [ὁ θεὸς – *ho theos – the God – God Our Father*], as dear children; **:02** – And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God [ὁ θεὸς – *ho theos – the God – God Our Father*] for a sweetsmelling savour.”

Jesus gave Himself as a offering for us and a sacrifice to our Heavenly Father in our stead. Please turn with me to Hebrews 10. His ultimate sacrifice by His death was done once for all.

Hebrews 10:10 – “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. **:11** – And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: **:12** – But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God [ὁ θεὸς – *ho theos – the God – God Our Father*]; **:13** – From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. **:14** – For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”

By His one sacrifice in death, we have the ability to be sanctified through His blood.

Jesus sacrificed Himself in death, but He also sacrificed His physical life in ministering to His disciples and to the Judeans, in healing people, and in being available to people. We are to do the same.

Please turn with me to Romans 12. The Apostle Paul discusses that we are to be willing to sacrifice ourselves also.

Romans 12:01 – “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. **:02** – And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God [ὁ θεὸς – *ho theos – the God – God Our Father*].”

So, we are to be living physical sacrifices each day for following our Heavenly Father’s way of life, for following Jesus’ example of living, for showing love and service to others at inconvenient times. Sacrifice is always inconvenient.

Please turn with me to Philippians 2. The Apostle Paul sacrificed himself daily to serve the brethren.

Philippians 2:16 – “Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. **:17** – Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. **:18** – For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.”

Brethren, are we willing to sacrifice our energies, our time, our efforts, our pleasures, and our own wills in order to serve one another, to help one another, and to be there for one another? Again, service to others will always come at

inconvenient times, at times when we want to do something else, at times when we've planned on doing something else that we want to do. Sacrifice is never convenient, but it is a true indicator of those who follow our Savior.

Jesus left us a perfect wonderful example of sacrifice in the way that He lived His life. Are we living that example of Jesus in our daily lives?

The fifth example of Jesus that we should imitate is:

5) Obedience

Obedience to our Heavenly Father and His laws is paramount in the life of true follower of Jesus. Please turn with me to Hebrews 5. As a human on the earth, Jesus learned obedience to His Heavenly Father.

Hebrews 5:05 – “So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. **:06** – As he saith also in another *place*, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. **:07** – Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; **:08** – Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

So, Jesus learned obedience by the trials and tribulations that He suffered. Please turn with me to Romans 5. Paul compares Adam and Jesus the Anointed One.

Romans 5:19 – “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

So, we are made sinners through the disobedience and sinning of Adam, but we are made righteous by the obedience of Jesus.

And just like Jesus, we are to obey our Heavenly Father no matter what the consequences. Please turn with me to Acts 5. What did Peter and the apostles do when they were confronted about their preaching and were told to stop?

Acts 5:26 – “Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. **:27** – And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council: and the high priest asked them, **:28** – Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. **:29** – Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

Brethren, do we have this same attitude and boldness that Peter and the apostles had? No matter what, are we ready and willing to obey our Heavenly Father instead of our own desires or the demands of others? Obedience is never easy. Obedience is never convenient. Obedience can and often does bring suffering, pain, separation, and even heartache on a physical, emotional, and mental level.

Jesus left us a perfect wonderful example of obedience in the way that He lived His life. Are we living that example of Jesus in our daily lives?

The sixth and final example of Jesus that we'll explore today that we should imitate is:

6) Love

As we have explored many times before, there are three nouns in Greek that are all translated as love in English. One of those nouns in Greek is “ἔρως” (eros – meaning sexual love or desire). We get our English word “erotic” from “eros”.

Another of those nouns in Greek is “φιλία” (philía – meaning loyalty, deep friendship, brotherly love). The name of the city of Philadelphia in Greek literally means City of brotherly love.

The third noun for love is the one that we will explore today. That noun in Greek is “ἀγάπη” (agápe – meaning selfless, unconditional, sacrificial love that is the highest form of love). Agape love is the love that our Heavenly Father and Jesus the Anointed One have for all of us. And it is the love that They want us to have for them and for one another also.

The Greek verb form of “ἀγάπη” (agápe) is “ἀγαπάω” (agapáo – meaning to have agape love for someone). Both agápe and agapáo are widely used in the New Testament.

Jesus' whole life was a perfect example of showing Godly agape love to others. On the last night of His physical life, Jesus told His disciples that He loved them with agape love.

John 13:34 – “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love [agapáo] one another; as I have loved [agapáo] you, that ye also love [agapáo] one another. **:35** – By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love [agapáo] one to another.”

Jesus told His disciples that he had Godly agape love for them, and that they should show this same agape love for one another. Please turn with me two chapters forward to John 15, where Jesus reiterates the importance of agape love.

John 15:12 – “This is my commandment, That ye love [agapáo] one another, as I have loved [agapáo] you. **:13** – Greater love [agápe] hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **:14** – Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. [Skip] **:17** – These things I command you, that ye love [agapáo] one another.”

Jesus perfectly showed His deep agape love for mankind by His willingness to be sacrificed in a very painful tortuous death so that our sins could be forgiven with His blood. He truly laid down His life for His friends!

The agape love that Jesus showed during His life on earth is the exact love that our Heavenly Father has for Jesus and for all of mankind.

Please turn with me to John 3. God Our Father has deep love for Jesus, His Son.

John 3:35 – “The Father loveth [agapáo] the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.”

Earlier in John 3, we can read that God Our Father also has deep agape love for mankind – all of His potential spiritual children.

John 3:16 – “For God so loved *[agapáo]* the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Our Heavenly Father had so much agape love for mankind that He was willing to sacrifice His own Son (a being with Whom He had shared eternity in the past) in order so that His potential spiritual children could have an opportunity for eternal life with Him and Jesus in His Kingdom.

Please turn with me to 1 Corinthians 13, and we will read several descriptions and characteristics of agape love that we can show in our daily lives.

1 Corinthians 13:04 – “Charity *[agape love]* suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity *[agape love]* vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **:05** – Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **:06** – Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **:07** – Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. **:08** – Charity *[agape love]* never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away. [Skip] **:13** – And now abideth faith, hope, charity *[agape love]*, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity *[agape love]*.”

Brethren, are we exhibiting these characteristics in the way we act, think, and speak in our daily lives? Are we showing kindness to others? Are we meek in our approach to others or are we boastful and proud? Are we patient with others or are we easily angered? Are we hopeful and optimistic? Do we bear the burdens of others without complaint? Do we show understanding or are we quick to judge others harshly? Do we easily jump to wrong conclusions about others? Do we rejoice in knowing the truth that our Heavenly Father has given to us?

Jesus gave us a perfect wonderful example of living a life each day using the selfless, unconditional, sacrificial Godly agape love. Are we following His example in the way that we conduct our lives and in the way that we treat others?

Today, we have explored six examples of Jesus in the way that He lived His life on this earth – examples that he left for us to follow. These examples were (1) humility; (2) compassion and service; (3) suffering; (4) sacrifice; (5) obedience; and (6) love.

Brethren, where are we in our spiritual lives and spiritual journeys toward the Kingdom of Our Heavenly Father? Where are we in following the perfect example of Jesus in our daily lives? Does the world see a difference in us? Do our actions, speech, demeanor, and attitudes stand out in the world, or do we just blend into the world?

As we prepare for partaking the Passover, let's evaluate the example of Jesus that He left for us. Are we looking more and more like Jesus? Just as a little chick learns from its mother hen through repetitive imitation, let us learn from our elder brother, Jesus the Anointed One, through repetitive imitation of His example.

Brethren, are you living the example of Jesus?