

**How do You Respond  
When Sacrificial Love  
is Shown to You?**

# What displays of love have impacted your life?

Your spouse lovingly spends time with you doing something you enjoy, but they don't

A manager who takes the blame for you when it was your fault

Someone who gives a compatible kidney so that you can live

A fellow soldier falls on a grenade in your midst to save your life

Should these acts of love prompt a response?

# Responses to Jesus' Sacrificial Love

Stephen honors His Lord by forgiving those who are in the process of killing him (Acts 7)

Paul is beaten, shipwrecked, imprisoned, stoned and ultimately beheaded for Jesus

According to tradition, Peter chooses a unique way to be executed to honor His Lord

Mary, Lazarus's sister, anoints Jesus with ***very expensive*** ointment the day before Palm Sunday (John 12)

When it comes to Jesus' sacrificial love, how should we respond?

**John 19:1-5 (ESV)**<sup>1</sup> Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him.  
<sup>2</sup>And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands.

<sup>4</sup> Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." <sup>5</sup> So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"

*Jesus endured this for us. How is it appropriate that we respond to this great demonstration of love?*

*Jesus has been brutally beaten and whipped and is likely barely able to stand. Pilate's hope is that the crowd will find this punishment sufficient*

Can you imagine the pain & humiliation Jesus was feeling at this time?  
How should this move us to respond?

**John 19:6-7 (HCSB)** <sup>6</sup> When the chief priests and the temple police saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" Pilate responded

"Take Him and crucify Him yourselves, for I find no grounds for charging Him." <sup>7</sup> "We have a law," the Jews replied to him, "and according to that law He must die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

*Instead of having compassion on Jesus, who was brutally wounded, they sought His death. Many who yelled "Hosanna" to Him, now called for His crucifixion without knowing it was the means by which they could be saved.*

*Actually, Jesus, who never sinned, was made to be sin in our place: **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)** For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

What's the appropriate response to our Lord becoming sin in our place?

**John 19:8-12 (NLT2)** <sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this, he was more

Do your actions show you are this world's friend or a follower of Jesus? and asked him, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer.

<sup>10</sup> "Why don't you talk to me?" Pilate demanded. "Don't you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?"<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said,

"You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin." <sup>12</sup> Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted,

"If you release this man, you are no 'friend of Caesar.' Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar."

*If Pilate only knew to whom he spoke...*

*'Friend of Caesar' was a loaded phrase and may have been what pushed Pilate to move forward with the crucifixion*

*When it is not in conflict to serving God, we are to honor the authorities God has put in place*

**John 19:13-15 (NASB)** <sup>13</sup> Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup> Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he

said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" <sup>15</sup> So they cried out, "Away with *Him*, away with *Him*, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

*We are now at about noon and Jesus has been awake well beyond 24 hours, has been mistreated, falsely accused, and brutally beaten in multiple ways. He did this for us.*

*Jesus is mocked again as He demonstrates the greatest act of compassion to us. He brought the everlasting kingdom, but their response is to reject His kinship with hatred.*

Do you yet realize that when you fail to passionately respond to Jesus' loving sacrifice, you are demonstrating that you don't truly love Him?