

Fresh Oil



February 2019

Dear Fellow Servants,

February is often a month we associate with 'love' since Valentine's Day falls during this time. I realize that it is really only a 'hallmark holiday' but it affords a good excuse for us to talk again on the subject of love. The best example of love, of course, comes from the life of our Saviour. He spoke often on the subject and modeled it in His daily life. On the night of His betrayal, at the last supper, Jesus shared a number of things about love. These are recorded for us in John 13-16. In John 15:13 He described the supreme example of love:

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

Of course, we all know that Jesus actually **did** lay His life down for us, on the cross of Calvary. That was the supreme example of His unconditional love. In the Message paraphrase of this verse it says, "This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends." But how does this verse play out for us in daily living? How does one "put their life on the line" in an everyday context? As I consider this, the words of the apostle Paul in Philippians 2:3-4 come to mind:

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

Laying your life down for others, on a daily basis, means putting their concerns and interests ahead of your own. This is what Jesus did and this is what He is commanding us to do, too. Look at John 15:12, the verse right before the one about laying down one's life for his friends:

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you."

So, during this month of February, let your Christ-like love flow from your heart to others. It's what Jesus commanded!

Your fellow servant,

Pastor Brian

... I have been anointed with fresh oil

PSALM 92:10

