

“DIFFERENT: LOVE”

MEMORY VERSE

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)

JACOB AND ESAU

³He himself went on before them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. ⁴But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. ⁵And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, “Who are these with you?” Jacob said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” ⁶Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down. ⁷Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down. And last Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. ⁸Esau said, “What do you mean by all this company that I met?” Jacob answered, “To find favor in the sight of my lord.” ⁹But Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.” ¹⁰Jacob said, “No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand. For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me. ¹¹Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough.” (Genesis 33:3-11)

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷‘Say to Joseph, “Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.”’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. (Genesis 50:14-21)

KING SAUL AND DAVID

He said to David, “You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. ¹⁸And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands. (1 Samuel 24: 17-18)

PRODIGAL SON

And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. (Luke 15:20-24)

1. “ABOVE ALL”

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

These things I command you, so that you will love one another. (John 15:17)

*Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10)
If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. (James 2:8)*

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (1 John 3:11)

2. "LOVE EACH OTHER DEEPLY"

Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:36)

3. "LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS"

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses. (Proverbs 10:12)

NEXT STEPS

1. Ask God for "agape" love for _____.
2. Text someone you are having a hard time with and tell them "I am choosing to love you no matter what".
3. Tell yourself that you are going to stop nitpicking your spouse/child.
4. Make a commitment to stop jumping to conclusions of how terrible they are and put the best construction on them and the situation.

GOING DEEPER

1. Why was loving deeply an important message to persecuted Christians?
2. Is it possible for a Christian to hate?
3. What keeps us from loving someone?
4. Why do we need to have the last word?