Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #12

God’s Love for You

**Matthew 23:37 (NASB)** *37  "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling”.*

As Jesus made His way into the city of Jerusalem, He made a statement of unparalleled proportion. The Creator God, the One who formed the Universe and breathed life into every living creature, made the greatest proclamation of love for His people that could be made.

Growing up as a country boy, I have seen many baby chicks. They are so cute and adorable. Their tiny feathers are so soft and comforting to touch. But as cute as they are, baby chicks are helpless to defend themselves. They run around at the feet of their mother, hiding under and around her because they know intuitively there is danger everywhere.

When the Lord looked over His Jerusalem that day, He saw the people as little chicks, metaphorically, who needed the care and protection that only He could give. In His voice you hear His tender compassion for those who had no idea what was coming and what they would do to reject Him. But still, He loved His people and does love His people. Jesus loved His people with such a deep passion on that day that Luke 19:41 tells us that He wept for them. He wept because He knew the plans that the Father had for them, (Jeremiah 29:11) but they would not submit to Him.

If you are a parent or ever have been a parent or even if you have had someone or something close to you, you understand the passion our Lord had. Many, many parents have cried passionate tears for their children who rebelled against them simply because they love them.

Love is expressed in many ways and one of the greatest expressions of love is expressed when tears stream down the face of the one who has a heart for others. Because of our sinfulness, our tears can be selfishly motivated, but often, tears are the evidence of great love and concern for someone who is loved.

This week, of all weeks, is the time to reflect on the love the Lord Jesus has for each of us. At the end of the week, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem with a broken heart for His people, He went to the Cross. The tears that He shed a week before were an outward expression of His love for His people, but at the end of the week, He proved His love for us in a tangible way.

How often do you stop to think about the love God has for you? How often do you think about what the Lord has given to show you His love for you? Today is the time to reflect and appreciate the warm, compassionate, merciful, and tender love that Jesus had and has for you. It is on this week, the week that we are reminded of the history of what Jesus did, but also for whom He died. You! You are the one for whom Jesus died. As He rode into Jerusalem on that day many years ago, not only was He thinking about the Hebrew people, but He was also thinking about you and me.

Would you consider stopping what you are doing for a minute and thanking God for His indescribable love He has for you. See Him in your mind looking at your face with tears of great love streaming down His face because He loves you and wants to make you everything He plans for you to be. Doesn’t the love of Jesus make you want to serve Him with your life? I pray it does.

**John 3:16 (NASB)** *16  "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life*”.