

# +WEEKLY SERMON

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## Remembrance

*John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

At this time of year, we buy our poppies and many of us attend Remembrance services and some of us also honour the two minutes silence 11am on Armistice Day, it's where we remember those who lost their lives in times of conflict for our country. The bible passage from John's gospel quoted here is often used. As a military veteran I will take time to remember friends and colleagues who did make the ultimate sacrifice whilst on duty. However, looking back through the mist of time it never occurred to me that I would lay down my life for a friend, although at times it came perilously close.

There are other thoughts that I have at this time of remembrance, and they are equally if not more important and they come from John 15:12 My command is this: Love others as I have loved you. And verse 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. I accept with Joy and gratitude the love that Jesus has for me a sinful man. But I find loving others, at times, is not easy, but I do my best.

I've accepted the friendship Jesus offers, but am I prepared to lay down my life for my friend Jesus, there's a challenge. There are many Christians around the world, in the persecuted church who are willing and do lay down their lives for Him. Thankfully in our country that is not the case, but there are still challenges for us all to face, maybe it's not life and death for us, but it is for those churches who are persecuted.

So, what can we do in view of Jesus' sacrifice for us? We must acknowledge that Jesus loved us so much that He laid down His life for us. We may not have to die for someone, but there are ways we can practice sacrificial love: listening, helping, encouraging, giving. We could think of someone or an organisation who needs this kind of love today. Give all the love we can, and then try to give a little more.

Going back to Remembrance Sunday. Give thanks to God for His great works, remember those who lived and died in His service and the service of others; pray for those who suffer through war and need; and ask for His help and blessing that we may do His will, and that the whole world may acknowledge Him as Lord and King.

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