

Devotional for the Fourth Week of Advent

Scripture Reading:

John 3:16

"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

What would that kind of love look like in the eyes of humanity. While I reflect on this it brings to mind an experience I had. I remember being at a Christmas show once and in the back sat a mother and her young child. He was born handicapped and was confined to a wheel chair. Often the mother would have to wipe his mouth. The point being is seeing her love in action was very touching.

I had an opportunity to speak with her and found out that she was a single mother.

I was so impressed by her love and care I asked her how do you manage to do it all. Her reply was very moving. She said that "He is my life. He is the greatest blessing that has ever happen to me.

This loving mother and handicapped child had a great affect on me. For me it was a real peek into the love that God has for me. The love that God has for me even in the midst of rebellion and the constant battle with sin. We as humans are the center of God's universe and God loves us that much and even more.

This two-person family had an eternal affect on me. I received a glimpse of the love God has for me. Despite my constant battles with sin and personal rebellion, God loves me like that.

This mother to me was a shining example of how God wants us to love one another. It is a shining example of the sacrificial love that God calls us to.

The fact is that we are the apple of God's eye and if we follow Him, He will be the apple of your eye to.

1 John 4:10

10 This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins..

Romans 5:8

8 But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us..

I would guess that most if not all of you who are reading this are familiar with the hymn "O Holy Night". If not verse three begins like this "Truly He taught us to love one another"

The law of God is love and the Gospel message is peace.

If you wonder how it is we are to love one another look no farther than love that sent God's only Son to earth. Jesus lived a life of love and in that love Jesus paid the price for our sins. At the core of our faith is Love. Not some kind of fancy love with impossible task for us to fulfill. It is a love that simply says I am willing to love you no matter what.

What makes that kind of love possible is simply because God first loved us.

How can we have a love like that?

Reflect and Share: Reflect on a time when you felt most loved by God and tell others about it.

Encourage: Invite others to experience the love of God.

Evaluate: Take an inventory of yourself and see what obstacles that may be holding you back from loving the way Jesus loved.

Pray: God help me to understand your love in new and exciting ways. Help me to grow in my relationship with you so I can grow in the ways in which I view and love others, Help me to surrender anything that may be holding me back so I can love more fully.