

Many Waters Cannot Quench Love



A fun day at Long Beach, Washington, took a sudden turn for the worse when Paul Douglas, while watching his son and his nephew, both about ten years old, saw them go farther from shore than they should have gone, and then they begin to panic. So he ran through the pounding surf and waded about forty or fifty yards through ever deepening water where the boys were having trouble. His nephew, the stronger swimmer of the two, seemed to be holding his own, but he saw his son was flailing with his arms and gasping for breath. He reached his boy and held onto him, holding him above the shoulder high water.

Running through the bitter cold water had tired him, but the important thing was his son whom he loved more than anything was safe. Because of his love, he was willing to put himself in harms way to protect his son. He never stopped to consider the danger to himself. This is the way love works.

He was holding onto his boy when he discovered his feet were trapped in the sand. Evidently he had stood for a few seconds sinking in a patch of soft, shifting, sand, that some locals call a crab hole. He couldn't pull his feet free from the suction of the sand and the more he struggled, the lower he sank. Soon the waves were crashing over him and he was no longer able to catch his breath.

He held on to his son holding him safe until at last, unable to breathe, he lost consciousness and let his boy go.

A short time later a rescue team arrived at the scene and pulled his badly shaken up son out of the water. The nephew had swum safely to the shore on his own. The rescue party searched for the dad for forty minutes, even calling in a helicopter to assist in their efforts. At last they located him, but it was too late, for he had drowned helping his son. A member of the rescue squad reported to the media, The dad died a hero, saving his son.

Paul Douglas loved his boy and died trying to protect him. Love is the earnest desire for the good of another, that is stronger even than the desire for the good of one's self. Solomon felt the power of love when he wrote the following Old Testament passage in the Song of Solomon. Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is as strong as death; jealousy as cruel as the grave; the coals thereof are the coals of fire which hath a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man should give the entire substance of his house for love it should be utterly condemned.

Paul Douglas loved his son with a love that was stronger than death, and he gave more than the substance of his house for it, he gave his own life that his son might live.

I would like to talk to you about another whose love was far stronger than death which many waters couldnt quench, neither could the floods drown it. I would like to talk to you about the love of the Lord Jesus Christ for a perishing world. Even though we are all sinners he loved us so much that he left heaven above to be born a man. In the four New Testament gospels you can trace his life on earth and see how truth and love shined in all he did and said.

In the New Testament you can read many wonderful incidents that reveal how Jesus showed Gods love to those who were in need. Take for instance the time he was walking on a road to a town called Nain. Near the city gate he passed a funeral procession. A widows only son had died and many folks from the town were carrying him out to bury him. When he saw the poor, heart-broken widow, he had compassion upon her, and, with the words, Young man I say unto thee arise, he raised her son back to life. You can find this story in Luke chapter 7. Truly his love is like no other.

Consider yet another incident. One time he passed by a man who was born blind. The man lived by begging. Jesus made clay out of dirt and spittle and wiped it on his eyes and told him to go wash in pool of water. The passage from John's gospel reads, He went his way therefore, washed and came seeing. The story doesnt end there. The religious leaders were so infuriated that such a miracle undeniably took place that they interrogated both this man and his parents. The mans honest answers to their questions enraged them so that they reviled him and cast him out from their society. But Jesus found him, talked to him and the man came to real faith in the Son of God. These are but two incidents. You can read many others also. And as you read them, you will begin to understand his great love.

Reading these stories how he loved others, you will see a picture of his love. But that picture can never be complete until you read the story of the cross and how he died a willing victim for others. Only then will you begin to understand the immense depth of his love.

The Lord Jesus knows that God is holy, loves goodness, and will punish evil. He knows that every member of the human race has sinned and done evil, and deserves the wages of sin which is death.

This death is not only physical death, where the spirit is separated from the body, but also spiritual death, where the soul is banished forever from the presence of God to a place called hell. Knowing these are the wages of sin while at the same time loving us with a love stronger than death, he went to the cross and willingly died in the sinners place. Even though he was betrayed, and had a trial that was a mockery of justice, and was nailed to the cross by cruel hands, nonetheless he was a willing victim because at any time while he was hanging on the cross he could have called on his heavenly Father to send angels to deliver him. It was not the nails that held him to the cross but his love for sinners that bound him secure.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul wrote Christ died for our sins. The waters of death and judgment, in wave after wave, passed over the Savior's soul. He sunk beneath those waves so we might be brought to safety. It is only by his death and suffering on the cross that any of us will ever escape the punishment our sins deserve. Jesus Christ came to earth, became a man, and died that we might live through him.

Because of his death, God is free and just to offer the gift of a free salvation to all who believe on the name of his Son. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul Douglas, in an act of courage and devotion, willingly gave up his life to save his son from drowning. A far greater than Paul Douglas came to this world, and in love, gave up his life for you. Will you let his love go unanswered and never come to him as the Savior of sinners? Or will you bow your heart to him in recognition of what he has done and believe on him? It is a choice only you can make. Oh be wise, and like the blind man that had received his sight, believe on the Son of God.