



Jesus Christ – the Good Shepherd who gave His life for others

The example of Jesus

Throughout His life, Jesus taught that true greatness is found in serving others. He healed the sick, comforted the suffering, welcomed the outcast, and cared for those whom others ignored.

He did not seek power, wealth, or prestige. Instead, He devoted Himself completely to fulfilling His mission and serving humanity. Jesus showed that genuine service always involves sacrifice.

The Good Shepherd

In the Gospel of John, Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd:

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)

A shepherd does not abandon the flock when danger approaches. He remains with those

entrusted to his care and accepts personal risk for their protection.

Jesus uses this image to explain the nature of authentic leadership.

True leaders do not think first of themselves. They take responsibility for others, protect those in their care, and remain faithful to their mission even when it becomes difficult.

The greatest act of love

Jesus taught that love is measured not only by words but by actions.

Shortly before His Passion, He told His disciples:

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

(John 15:13)

These words reveal the deepest meaning of sacrifice.

True service means being willing to place the good of others before personal comfort, convenience, or recognition. Sometimes this requires giving time, energy, and strength. In exceptional circumstances, it may even require the ultimate sacrifice.

Jesus Himself fulfilled these words through His death on the Cross.

Service and sacrifice

The life of Jesus demonstrates that service and sacrifice cannot be separated.

Every worthwhile mission requires commitment. Every responsibility involves sacrifice.

Parents sacrifice for their children. Leaders sacrifice for those they lead. Soldiers sacrifice comfort, security, and time with their families in order to serve and protect others.

Sacrifice does not diminish a person. When offered for a worthy purpose, it becomes an expression of courage, love, and responsibility.

Why is Christ our model?

Jesus is the perfect example of selfless service.

He placed God's will above His own comfort. He cared for others before Himself. He remained faithful to His mission despite suffering, rejection, and death.

His life demonstrates that true leadership is always rooted in service.

What can we learn from Jesus?

Jesus remains the supreme role model for all who are called to serve.

His example reminds us that:

- Service requires commitment and dedication.
- Responsibility often demands personal sacrifice.
- Leadership means caring for others.
- Love is demonstrated through action.
- True greatness is found in serving rather than being served.

Military personnel understand that service frequently requires sacrifice. Missions, responsibilities, and the protection of others often demand courage, self-discipline, and selflessness.

Jesus teaches that the highest form of service is to place the good of others before oneself and to remain faithful to one's mission out of love.

A reflection

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These two verses remind us that true service is never merely about what we do, but about the love, dedication, and sacrifice with which we do it.