

THE LOVE

No one can enter the kingdom of heaven except through Jesus.

Jesus is the gate to the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus is also the shepherd and we are His sheep.

His sheep know His voice and follow His voice, they never follow the voice of a stranger.

The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Jesus leads His sheep out into pasture.

Pasture represents both the Lord's provision and His blessing.

He doesn't just provide for our needs, He also leads us into blessing.

To be good at anything, you have to begin with love.

To be a good parent, a good spouse, a good brother or sister, a good friend, a good boss, a good worker.

Love must be your motivation.

If you don't give very much, you don't love very much.

Not in terms of giving **things**, but in giving of **ourselves**.

God the Father gave His Son and Jesus gave Himself.

There is no greater gift than that, no greater love than that.

There is no greater love than laying down one's life for one's friends.

Jesus laying down His life involved many aspects.

It involved; setting aside the glory He had with the Father, humbling Himself, taking on physical limitations, being misunderstood, despised and rejected, suffering horrible scourgings and beatings and finally crucifixion.

We are told in 1 John 3:16 that we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

What does that mean?

Fortunately, that does not normally mean we literally die for our brothers and sisters, although some have.

Laying down one's life involves:

1. Learning the voice of the shepherd.
2. Obeying the voice of the shepherd.
3. Desiring the voice of the shepherd.

Distance can make it difficult to recognize a person's voice.
How distance are we from the voice of Jesus?
He wants us to be able to recognize His voice.
Reading the Word of God is the primary way we learn to recognize His voice.
You have to be willing to walk where **He** walks.
You can't be a Christian and only walk where **you** want to walk.
Sometimes God leads us through the valley of the shadow of death.
We still need to follow His voice.
We don't walk through the valley of the shadow of death by ourselves, He goes with us.
Or more accurately we go with Him.
He is the Good Shepherd, He can prepare a table for us in the presence of our enemies.
The Father commanded Jesus to lay down His life.
Then Jesus made His desire line up with His Father's desire.
Jesus didn't just lay down His life out of obedience, Jesus **wanted** to lay down His life.
We need to **want** to be with Jesus even if He is going through the valley of the shadow of death.
Are you willing to lay down your life for Him; learn His voice, obey His voice, desire His voice?
Ask God to help you do that.

SCRIPTURE LIST

John 10:1-10	1 John 3:16	John 10:17-18
John 14:6	Matthew 16:24 (NLT)	Isaiah 53:6
John 3:16	Isaiah 30:21	John 10:15-16
John 15:13	Psalm 23	