

# Pathway to Calvary!

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The pathway to the Cross of Jesus goes directly through the towns of *Love*, *Forgiveness*, and *Faith*. When we do not act from *love* in our heart; when we are not willing to *forgive* someone; or when we do not act from *faith* in the Atonement of Christ, we cannot reach the Cross—we have turned off the right path and away from Calvary.

Three issues are an integral part of the Christian life of faith in Christ. The first hamlet we go through is **Love**.

NKJV 1 John 4:7 “*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*”

A scribe asked—AV Matthew 22:36 “*Master, which is the great commandment in the law?* 37 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.* 38 *This is the first and great commandment.*

39 *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*” Those two Commands support the entire teaching of Scripture.

For anyone who is learning a new trade, they are given many instructions on *how* to go about doing it correctly.

The student would ask their superior: “*What are the most important instructions, so I can be sure to follow through with them?*”

[1 John 4:7; Matthew 22:36-39]

Jesus is saying that if we want to carry through with the true Christian life, we must follow His instructions to *love* God and to *love* everyone else in the same way by our faith in Jesus.

We are not being truthful if we say we love God and still hate someone—NKJV 1 John 4:20 “*For he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?*”

The apostle adding that if we do *not* love God and do *not* love others, then His Truth is simply *not* in us.

We need to take a serious look at our *actions*, our *words*, and our *attitudes*—asking if our comments put others in a *favorable* or *unfavorable* light?

Jesus said NKJV John 14:21 “*He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.*” Then adding in verse 23, “*If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make **Our home** with him.*”

There is no one we would rather have *live* with us than God the Father and the Lord Jesus. There would be no worry or fear about anything if the Father and the Son were with us every moment. That *can* be a reality just by *keeping* His commandments.

Jesus showed His love *for us* by *acting in love* for us—NKJV 1 John 4:10 “*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

11 *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*”

Jesus took *our* place on the Cross and suffered all that pain for *us*. He did this so we could be released from sin and could enter in Heaven’s gate.

[1 John 4:20; John 14:21,23; 1 John 4:10]

Lest we forget, Jesus took our place when we were still in sin and still talking and acting and treating others in wrong and worldly ways. He showed the ultimate display of love—and it is the only **Pathway to Calvary!**

Everyone needs to *believe* what He did for the world; and everyone needs to really *trust* Him, *listen* to Him, and to *obey* His instructions on loving others.

A good way to start is by how we *talk*, the words we *use*, and the way we *treat* people!

We cannot imagine what the Father was feeling when His Son gave His life for us.

Jesus prayed to be spared the agony AV Luke 22:40 “*Pray that ye enter not into temptation.* 41 *And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,* 42 *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*”

Jesus *loved* us so much that He was willing to *die* for us in that way! He *did* that so we could eventually *live* with Him *forever* by keeping our *faith* in Him *forever*.

Our **Pathway to Calvary** has always included *love* for others. NKJV John 15:12 “*Love one another as I have loved you.*”

If we stay on the path of **Love, Forgiveness**, and **Faith**, then the world would *know* that we follow Jesus.

There is no greater compliment than to hear someone say that they could tell from our *actions*, our *words*, and our forgiving *attitude* that we are a follower of Christ.

When the Prodigal Son took his inheritance and left home to live a worldly life of irresponsible living, he eventually had nothing to live on and no food to eat. When he realized that the servants at home had plenty to eat, he made the decision to return to his father.

[Luke 22:40-42; John 15:12]

He started back to ask his father to forgive him. The father loved him so much that he had been *watching* for him, and when he *saw* the son he *ran* to him—embraced him—totally overlooking any wrongs of the past the son had done.

The father told the servants to bring the best robe, shoes, and a ring—AV Luke 15:23 “*And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.*”

This son would have been unkempt—clothes torn, unwashed, and appearing under-nourished—yet the father did not see any of that—he only saw the son he loved returning home where he belonged.

It is how God sees *us*—it is the unconditional *love* God *has* for us—not what we are wearing on the *outside*, but what is in our heart on the *inside*!

He *knows* when we want to return home and He *knows* when we are ready to repent.

If we have true love for Him in our heart, He sees that willingness in us to trust Him from that moment.

NKJV Luke 15:7 “*I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.*”

God loves us *that* much—and He does not want *anyone* to perish, but wants to see everyone *returning, repenting, and giving* their life to Him anew—fully restoring their relationship with Him.

The **Pathway to Calvary** goes right through the towns of *Love, Forgiveness, and Faith!*

**Forgiveness:** If the Prodigal Son’s father had not *loved* him unconditionally, he could not have *forgiven* him unconditionally.

[Luke 15:23-24; Luke 15:7]

*That* is the same forgiveness God the Father offers to His children—if we will come to Him in humility of heart and repent and ask to be forgiven.

It is our daily prayer; AV Matthew 6:12 “*And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*”

There is an obligation that comes with being forgiven. AV Matthew 6:14 “*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*”

It is the choice to always forgive we *all* must make, because we will *not* enter Heaven if the Father does *not* forgive our sins.

We have all sinned many times, and in many ways—everyone has fallen short of the sinless perfection of God.

When Jesus was asked—AV Matthew 18:21 “*Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, “I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.”*”

No matter how many times someone sins against us, harms us, or talks about us—we are to *readily forgive* them in order to *be* forgiven.

Holding resentment, bitterness, or hard feelings against someone for any reason is the most *destructive* attitude to have in our heart.

**Pathway to Calvary**—Jesus explained NLT Matthew 18:23 “*The Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him.*”

24 *In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.*

[Matthew 6, 12, 14-15; Matthew 18:21-24]

25 *He couldn’t pay, so the king ordered that he, his wife, his children, and everything he had be sold to pay the debt.*

26 *But the man fell down before the king and begged him, ‘Oh, sir, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ 27 Then the king was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.*”

28 “*But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.*

29 *His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient and I will pay it,’ he pleaded.*”

The creditor was *not willing* to forgive the *minor* debt—even though he had just been forgiven of a *major* debt.

The king had the man arrested and said to him NLT Matthew 18:32 “*You evil [wicked AV] servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?*”

**Faith;** It takes real *faith* in God to let *Him* avenge our wrongs; to supply our needs; or to heal our body.

AV Matthew 18:32 “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen;” and 6 “without faith it is impossible to please him.*”

The **Pathway to Calvary** goes right through attitudes of **Love; Forgiveness; and Faith!**

[Matthew 18:25-29; 32-33; Matthew 18:6]



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