

# Jesus' giving of Himself

## Biblical Examples

### Foundation

#### Bible passage : Luke 23:33-36

Having looked at the Biblical teaching about service we turn to three examples from the Bible of what it means to serve, starting with Jesus Himself. We are therefore covering some of the same ground but in this unit with a particular focus on how Jesus, the Servant, gave Himself for others, particularly His enemies. It is just as well that He did this because the Bible tells us that without faith we are all enemies of Christ (see for example Romans 1-5 and especially 1:10 & 5:10).

Many places in our country have war memorials remembering those (in military service) who died in the service of their country. They often include some words of Jesus spoken at the last supper. This was shortly after He washed the disciples feet, dressed like a servant. Jesus said: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15.13)

As we have seen in previous units, the following day Jesus was put to death, laying down His life, on the cross. He had been rejected, beaten, mocked, and cruelly persecuted by those he came to save. He was also abandoned or betrayed by the 12 disciples. But He had come to save. As He hung on the cross, in agony, slowly dying, He prayed: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do". (Luke 23.34)

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*The Way of Suffering (Via Dolorosa) along which Jesus is thought to have been led to the site of crucifixion.*

Back at the Last Supper Jesus had gone on to warn the disciples: "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first." (John 15.13) They would discover the reality of that in the years that followed as they faced rejection, persecution, imprisonment, suffering and execution.

We have also seen why it was that Jesus died in the way He did. He said "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mk 10:45)

His death was not just for a few people, but for the whole world. That is why after His resurrection Jesus sent His disciples out in to the world, and He still sends them today.

Part of the message is that Jesus "gave Himself", He died for those who are His enemies, not just His friends. Through faith in Jesus those who are enemies, even those who oppose Him, can become disciples and find forgiveness.



**Jesus died so that everyone, not just His friends and disciples, could be forgiven, through trusting in Him.**