

## Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love; Psalm 145:3-6

- I. Vast and Astounding
  - a. Vast: a boundless space (the *vast* of heaven—John Milton)<sup>1</sup>
  - b. Astounding: causing astonishment or amazement (an *astounding* revelation)<sup>2</sup>
  - c. We often place (both knowingly and unknowingly) conditions on our love
    - i. We want others to love us before we love them
    - ii. We want others to prove their love for us
    - iii. We hold back until we ‘feel’ that it is right to show or profess our love
  - d. God never ‘held back’ his love from us
    - i. In saying that, we have to talk about Esau
    - ii. Romans 9:13 (ESV) <sup>13</sup> As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”
    - iii. This originates from Malachi 1:1-3 and details God’s judgment on Edom
    - iv. While Malachi uses this referring to the past, Paul uses this in Romans referring to the future (Paul is talking about Rebekah before she conceived the twins)
    - v. Romans 9:11–13 (ESV) <sup>11</sup> though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— <sup>12</sup> she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” <sup>13</sup> As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”
    - vi. God chose Jacob to be the Father of Israel (remember, God later changed his name to Israel) because he knew what kind of person Esau was
    - vii. Hebrews 12:15–17 (ESV) <sup>15</sup> See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup> that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup> For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.
    - viii. The writer of Hebrews is not referring to a repentant Esau looking to do God’s will
    - ix. Genesis 27:37–38 (ESV) <sup>37</sup> Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?” <sup>38</sup> Esau said to his father, “Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.
    - x. God chose Jacob and rejected Esau knowing what kind of people they would become
    - xi. Romans 5:6–8 (ESV) <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Inc Merriam-Webster, [Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary](#). (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

xii. John 3:16 (ESV) <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- e. God’s love is vast, boundless
- f. God’s love is astounding, astonishing, amazing!

## II. Sustained by Your Hand

- a. Sustained: translated in the Old Testament as provide, nourish, supplied, held, provisioned, fed, and there are a few more
- b. Psalm 55:22 (ESV) <sup>22</sup> Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will **sustain** you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.
- c. Ruth 4:14–15 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! <sup>15</sup> He shall be to you a restorer of life and a **nourisher** of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.”
- d. God has promised to provide, nourish, supply, hold, feed us!
  - i. John 14:27 (ESV) <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
  - ii. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (ESV) <sup>3</sup> But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.
  - iii. James 1:5 (ESV) <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.
  - iv. Romans 15:13 (ESV) <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
- e. Who would want to trade God’s sustaining for our own?
  - i. We often do with money, fame, power, drugs, and other ‘addictions’
  - ii. But what can we offer for our soul?
  - iii. Mark 8:36–37 (ESV) <sup>36</sup> For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul?
  - iv. Philippians 4:19 (ESV) <sup>19</sup> And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
- f. “Creation is brimming with thankfulness, the mountains exultant they stand. The seasons rejoice in your faithfulness, all life is sustained by your hand”

## III. Your Cross is Our Door

- a. We often think of the cross as the end of Jesus’ life
  - i. And it is the end of His physical life
  - ii. He died upon the cross to be resurrected from the tomb three days later
- b. Really, it is the end of the old covenant
  - i. The writer of Hebrews quotes Jeremiah 31:31ff; God will establish a new covenant that is not like the old one
  - ii. Hebrews 8:13 (ESV) <sup>13</sup> In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

- iii. Jeremiah prophesied this between 627 BC and 586 BC, about 600 years before Jesus' sacrifice
  - iv. Acts 2:15–16 (NASB95) <sup>15</sup> “For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the third hour of the day; <sup>16</sup> but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:
    - v. Acts 2:21 (ESV) <sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’
    - vi. Colossians 2:13–14 (ESV) <sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
  - c. Jesus is the door to the new covenant
    - i. John 10:9 (ESV) <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.
    - ii. John 14:6 (ESV) <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
    - iii. Jesus’ physical death provided for our spiritual life
- IV. Untied in Your Resurrection
- a. “Untied in Your resurrection, You lift us to infinite heights. Could anything sever or take us from magnificent, marvelous, matchless love”
  - b. Romans 6:5–7 (ESV) <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin.
  - c. That is magnificent, marvelous, matchless love!