

could deliver them, but they said if he didn't save them they still would not bow.

WASN'T CALVARY ENOUGH

In John 6 the people of Israel and some of his disciples (followers), turned their backs on Jesus because He said "no" to being crowned king and freeing them from the Romans. Jesus asked the Twelve if they were leaving and Peter said, **"Where would we go? You have the words of eternal life."** Years later, in his first letter to the churches, he tells us why in 1 Peter 1:17-18:

"Don't slip back into your old ways / for you know God paid a ransom to save you from your empty life / with the precious blood of Christ."

Many years ago, hurting emotionally, it seemed the more I prayed, the harder my situation became. My relationship with God was at a standstill. The Holy Spirit led me to think of all the times I failed him after he forgave me and to picture my empty life before Jesus came. I would not have the wonderful wife and family he gave me.

He took me to the cross and to Hebrews six which says, when disobey, we **"crucify the Son of God all over again."** I felt every time I sin I join the mob that killed him. My "pity party" turned into a praise service. I prayed

"Lord, You hung on a cross, bloodied and bruised, for me and if you never answer another prayer of mine, or do anything for me again, I will love and serve you forever.

A very wealthy man's wife died leaving him with one precious little boy. A housekeeper came in to care for him and his son. In his teens, the boy got sick and died suddenly. It was more than the father could bear and in a few months he died. In his grief he left no will and everything in the house was sold at public auction. The humble housekeeper could not afford to buy some items she wanted. After the auction, the only item left

was a portrait of his little boy above the fireplace. The lady bought it for one dollars and took it to her new apartment. The next day a lawyer came to see her, with the will. He left his house and all of his wealth to the person who bought that portrait. He felt it would be someone who loved his son. That's what God does for us if we love His son loving His Son.

WHAT IS LOVE FOR JESUS

(Jesus said) The one who has my commands and obeys them is the one who loves me."

[John 14:21]

Love for Jesus, according to the Bible, is spelled OBEY and in Luke 10 Jesus says we obey Him by loving our fellow man. And that love is spelled HELP.

When I was in seminary the largest sanctuary was Travis Ave Baptist Church in Fort Worth. Speaking in chapel, the pastor told of a little Mexican boy sitting in one of the church's swings. He said, I spoke to him and when I asked him where he went to church he said we don't go and I invited him and his family to visit ours.

The little boy said, Mister, that big old church doesn't want us in there. I put my hand on his shoulder and said, son we built that church just for you. Long story short, he and his family started coming and one Sunday they all joined.

When they came forward I learned the father had just been laid off from work. As I presented him to the church, I told them this, and that day he had *three job offers*. That is what church is all about – helping people, but to do it, their members must do their part. Christians who don't, while claiming to love Jesus, don't love Him. They are like this:

**Mommy I love you said little Nell
I love you more than tongue can tell
And out the garden gate she flew
Leaving mommy all the work to dol**