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Jesus went "All In" for us!

John 10:11-18 - **11-13** "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary. A hired man is not a real shepherd. The sheep *mean nothing to him*. He sees a wolf come and runs for it, leaving the sheep to be ravaged and scattered by the wolf. He's only in it for the money. *The sheep don't matter to him*.

14-17 "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me. In the same way, the Father knows me and I know the Father. *I put the sheep before myself, sacrificing myself if necessary*. You need to know that I have other sheep (The Gentiles) in addition to those in this pen. I need to gather and bring them, too. They'll also recognize my voice. Then it will be one flock, one Shepherd. This is why the Father loves me: because I *freely lay down my life*. And so I am free to take it up again. *No one takes it from me*.

We have been "Purchased"!

<u>I Peter 2:9</u> - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, God's own *purchased*, special people, that you should show forth the praises of Him who *called you* out of darkness into His marvelous light.

<u>I</u> Corinthians 6:19-20 – **19** Haven't you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that he lives within you? **Your own body does not belong to you**. **20** For God has *bought you with a great price*. So use *every part of your body* to give glory back to God because he owns it.

Revelation 5:9-10 – **9** And they sang a new song: "You, Jesus are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and *with your blood you purchased men for God* from every tribe and language and people and nation. **10** You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to *serve our God*, and *they will reign* on the earth."

- In the Kingdom of God, SERVING always comes before REIGNING!
- The Power of God will never be realized in the life of a person who doesn't respond to being "Purchased in Love"!

Paul Went "All In"

<u>Galatians 2:20</u> - I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, *who loved me and gave Himself for me*.

It was knowing God's love that enabled Paul to go "All In"!

II Corinthians 11:24-28 - **24** Five different times the Jews gave me thirty-nine lashes. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. **26** I have traveled many weary miles. I have faced danger from flooded rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the stormy seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be Christians but are not. **27** I have lived with weariness and pain and sleepless nights. Often I have been hungry and thirsty and have gone without food. Often I

have shivered with cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. **28** Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along.

II Corinthians 12:7-10 - **7** And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. **8** Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. **9** And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **My strength is made perfect in weakness**." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when **I am weak**, **then I am strong**.

Paul aboard the ship

<u>Acts 27:22-25</u> – 22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. 23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, *whose I am*, and *whom I serve*, 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar: and, God has given you all them that sail with you. 25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

II Timothy 4:5-8 - **5** But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, bringing others to Christ, fulfill and complete your ministry and leave nothing undone that you ought to do. **6** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.