

**Life for Life**  
**John 10:16-18**  
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**Sermon Outline**

**A. Love Sooo Amazing !!(vs. 17a):**

1. They (the other sheep) will hear MY voice – Those who were far away (Gentiles; Ephesians 2:11-13), whose prayers He did listen to (John 9:31), who were dogs eating crumbs from under the table (Matthew 15:27), now will be able have a personal relationship with Christ; MY voice.
  - a) We are saved by faith (Ephesians 2:8-10) and it comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).
    - Not everyone will hear. It depends on if they are thorny bushes, rocky soil or fertile soil (Luke 8:11-14).
  
2. They (the other sheep) will hear MY voice – This is a very personal and intimate experience of God.
  - a) His Spirit now lives in us (John 14:16-17). Our bodies are His temple; dwelling place (1 Corinthians 6:19; Titus 3:4-8).
  - b) His Spirit prays for us (Romans 8:26).
  - c) He convicts us of sin (John 16:7-11).

- d) His Spirit helps us to come to know His voice (Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-15).
- e) His Spirit reminds us of His Word (John 14:26).
- f) The Spirit fills us so that we experience God fully (Ephesians 3:14-19; 5:15-18).
- g) Because of the Spirit 'nothing can separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:38-39).

3. They (the other sheep) will hear MY voice – The love of the Father for the lost sheep (Genesis 12:1-3) is the love of the son.

4. For this reason My Father – Because Jesus became God's 'only begotten' (John 1:14; 3:16, 18; 1 John 4:9) God is referred to in this verse as 'My Father.'

5. For this reason My Father – No matter how Christ may seem neglected by all that took place on Calvary's cross God will always be His Father. He is life so He can pick up again (John 11:25).

6. God loves Me – God is love, therefore He loves Christ. By saying 'God loves Me,' Christ is stating that even though He lays down His life, which is a horribly brutal process, God still continuously extends His compassion, affection and His will towards Him. The cross does not mean that God does not care or has compassion for Christ.

a) The Father loves the Son always (17:24), but he has a special reason for loving him because of his obedience unto death.<sup>[1]</sup>

b) This can be tied to John 3:16 showing God's love for the sheep that inspires His love for His Son who lays down His life for the sheep.

## **B. His Lost our Gain (vs. 17b-18):**

1. I lay down my life – God’s love for Christ causes Christ to continuously appoint Himself to humble Himself to the point of the horrors of Calvary. He willingly not just bears the outer pain but also the inner intense pain and distress He felt (The Garden of Gethsemane; Matthew 26:36-46).
  - a) No man could touch the Son until his hour had come (19:11).<sup>[2]</sup>
  - b) The fact that Christ's death is an act of free volition must be stressed in order that when death occurs the enemies who have brought it about may have no right to boast as if this were their victory, and also in order that the disciples may have no reason to despair as if this were his defeat.
2. May take it – Christ only needs one occasion to unchangingly obtain the self-promoted action that was done in His own power to get up from the grave. He can trust Him because He unequivocally proved He is life (John 10:10).
3. May take it – Once Christ executed His Father’s will death could not hold Him.
4. No one can take it away – Because Christ, in His own power, overcame the power of death and got up from the grave, no one could ever put Him in a life and death situation again. He will never have to experience another Calvary.
  - a) The Jews nor the soldiers took Christ's life. He laid it down and it was Christ who picked it up again. That is why the Father loves Him. Christ willingly died for His sheep.

5. I lay down on my own initiative – Christ continuously humbled Himself ‘On my own initiative’ meaning even though it looked like everyone was in control of what was taking place, Christ still had all power and authority. He had to decide after submitting to His Father’s will to allow everyone involved to crucify Him. No one had the power or authority to crucify Christ unless He willfully chose to allow them (Philippians 2:6-11).

6. I have the authority – Christ all by Himself has the ‘supra-ordained power,’ and authority to overcome all evil forces. He demonstrated this repeatedly, example; the temptation, casting out demons and raising Lazarus from the dead after three days.

7. I lay it down – Christ can continuously decide when to die and when to live. This is something only He can appoint or incline Himself to; even God could not take this from Him.

8. I have the authority to take it up again – Christ has the ‘supra-ordained power,’ and authority to continuously self-impose any actions He chooses to take in reference to the cross or the grave. He is repeatedly making it clear that He willfully, decisively, as displayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, had complete control to decide whatever would take place before, during and after the cross.

a) Elsewhere throughout the New Testament the Resurrection of Jesus is always referred to as an act of God. It is undoubtedly the case that the New Testament prefers to speak of God as raising up Jesus, but Jesus several times predicted that He would rise (e.g. Mark 8:31; Luke 24:7) and there are some passages which say that He did rise (Acts 10:41; 17:3; 1 Thess. 4:14). We ought not put any opposition between the Father and the Son in this matter, nor the Father raised the Son. But we should not overlook the fact that there is also a strand of New Testament teaching which says that the Son "rose". The present passage fits in with this strand.

9. These commands I received – This is the authoritative order that God provided and Christ willfully decided, by His own power and authority, to accept.

10. My Father – Even though Christ gets to make up His own mind, the order came from someone He has a very personal relationship with ‘MY Father.’ It is still His decision but it is very difficult to turn down.

11. My Father – The love of God is the heart of Christ; we must treasure the gift.

12. When we see everything God and Christ did for us, becoming a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1), or denying our- selves while bearing our cross (Luke 14:26-27; Matthew 11:28-30 – a load that is easier than what the world can do to us) is a transformational, sometimes painful process (Philippians 3:1-11) that comes nowhere close to what Christ did for us. Like we would do for everyone who blessed our lives it should be a joy.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Pfeiffer, C. F., & Harrison, E. F., eds. (1962). *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: New Testament* (Jn 10:17). Moody Press.

<sup>[2]</sup> Pfeiffer, C. F., & Harrison, E. F., eds. (1962). *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: New Testament* (Jn 10:17). Moody Press.