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NO GREATER LOVE (John 15:13)

...Today we hear much about love. It fills our music, it is often displayed on the big screen, and it is used by people who talk about loving their cars, pets, pizza, cell phones, etc.

...Today is Veteran's Day. We as a country are honoring all who have worn the uniform, who stood and protected us as a country. Thank you! You are HEROES!!!

...This morning we as a church desire to HONOR not only our military men and women, but all who have served us in providing front line care and protection. You are heroes! You rush in to help, when most of us are running out. It was Jesus who said, "No greater love..."

THREE OBSERVATIONS UPON THE LOVE EXHIBITED BY HEROES...CALLING US TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES.

I. Jesus Tells Us That The Love Involved Here Is Very Special.

...In the ancient world, there were three kinds of "love" often spoken of...

- A. Eros...always refers to sexual love. It can refer to good and normal sexual relations within marriage, or it can refer to perverted sexual expressions. (erotica...is a word we have in the English)
- B. Phileo...is the type love that is relational. It is family love, like "brotherly Love." (the city of Philadelphia carries this meaning)
- C. Agape...is the word that Jesus used here and it refers to that type of love that sacrifices itself for the object in view. This is God's love. (John 3:16)

II. Jesus Tells Us That The Exceptional Expression Of Love Is To Die For Others. "no greater love" It is the ultimate selflessness.

- A. We may give our money to those in need even in a sacrificial way. This is a good thing, but it is not the exceptional expression of love.
- B. We may give our time to others, which is a very kind thing to do. Yet, it is not the greatest expression of love you that you can give.
- C. You may give of your abilities and talents to those in need. Again, it is a kind thing for you to do, but it is not the highest expression of love.
- D. This exceptional love (agape) is to give of your life for another.
 1. There is no greater gift you could give...
 2. This is why we honor you, men and women, who put your lives on the line for others. Wow!!! Jesus says of you, "well done!"

III. Jesus Provides Us With The Supreme Example Of This Exceptional Love. He Laid Down His Life For Us. Why Was It Exceptional?

- A. He did not have to die. Jesus could have come from heaven, taught the way of God, healed the sick, and gone back to heaven. But He did not. ...We all have to die...but not Jesus. He is "the way, the truth, and the life."
- B. He knew He would die. Most who do heroic things have a hope that they will escape. But not Jesus. He died deliberately. "He gave His life..." (John 10)
- C. He died for His enemies. This is what we were...not more. (Rom 5:6-8)

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:

1. It is an honorable thing to be willing to give yourself on behalf of others!
2. Jesus is the supreme example of love... He willingly died for us!!
3. You and I must, as Christians, be willing to lay down our lives for others!
4. If you have never received Jesus Christ as your Savior... you must!