

**REFLECTIONS FROM SPRING HARVEST MINEHEAD
APRIL 2026**

by *Dave Jackson*

NO GREATER LIFE

The greatest life that anyone has lived, modelled on love,
Wholehearted passion given, everything flows from above;
Worship on the mountain, communal love for others,
An ardour for the world He made, His sisters and His brothers.

God's Spirit will uphold us, when the going's getting tough:
We're asking Him for more, our strength alone is not enough,
To seek an inner feeding that will just go on and on,
His love can pour out from us, for the wine is never gone.

Passionate to follow and to always put Him first,
A heart enlarged by Jesus' love that's truly fit to burst;
And, as we sing His praises, proud to stand among the throng,
God plants the seeds of mission, beds in us a holy song.

In everything we do or say,
When we let Jesus have his way,
His love will always win the day!

Dave Jackson

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RADICAL

[A reflection on Mark 14:1-9]

Discovering the beauty of the Lord who gave it all,
It's only He can pick us up, though many times we fall;
God invites us to go on the ride of faith with Him,
And in His light the colours of the world pale, grey and dim.

Praying for each other is the greatest precious gift,
When we surrender to His will, we'll see perspectives shift;
The Gospels have great power to share of all that's good and true,
But faith is not an easy ride, with suffering pushing through.

All will be unsettled, we can never be the same,
The making of our life when we commit to Jesus' name;
When we become disciples, the impression will dig deep,
Following the Saviour is the way we're called to keep.

It doesn't matter who we are, but who, through Him, we'll be,
All we need, a heart for Him, He's calling you and me;
But this is something radical, our souls renewed, awoken,
With Jesus first, we follow, for the Lord of life has spoken.

Doing something beautiful for Christ should be our pleasure,
Our worship full, and unrestrained, a truly priceless treasure;
Lives redeemed means life from death, from out of darkness raising,
Overflowing in our joy, through every fibre praising;
Throwing off the shackles of indifference, reaching higher;
Let's never lose the wonder when our hearts were first on fire;
His love for us beyond all bounds, of every drop His giving,
No greater love, the love of Christ, the joy of Godly living!

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DRAW NEAR

A close friend speaks the truth in love,
Touched by God's presence from above;
An honest meeting that transforms,
The calm that overcomes the storms.

He kindles burning deep within,
A precious work, His to begin;
And, leaning in, He draws us near,
Transformed by love, and freed from fear.

We sense His presence, when we know
He calls us to step out, and go
So far outside our comfort zone,
When we are faithful, made His own;
Beyond emotion, being changed,
Excited, lives are rearranged.

Out to the world, in overflow,
So many more will come to know
That, drawing near, we are made new:
For this is what God loves to do!

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OBEDIENCE

[Reflections from Mark 8-9]

Lovingly, our Lord corrects us,
To bring us back when we have strayed;
Letting Him into our lives,
To be with Him, confession prayed.

We're with Him through the highs and lows,
Climbing high, then down again;
By His grace, compassion flows,
To wipe away our every stain.

'Who do you say I am?', the question,
We are called to recognise
That He is truly the Messiah;
Willing hearts and opened eyes,
Revelation ours the treasure:
This is He, the Son of God,
Mercy flowing without measure,
Walking paths that Jesus trod.

Returning to restore the kingdom,
Rightful king upon the throne,
Bowing knees and heartfelt praising
Of our lives, the Lord alone.

Cherishing His shining glory,
Every word with us He shared
From the cloud, we're called to listen,
Leading us, though unprepared,
To the place where He will save us,
Drawing all the threads as one,
Everything in love He gave us,
Truly seen, the Father's Son.

Here, the challenge laid before us:
How we live to be transformed,
Though the cost may weigh so heavy,
Evil's ramparts to be stormed.
Not our way, but God's the leading,
As disciples, lives are changed,
Shedding empty preconceptions,
Everything is rearranged.

But are we truly, really, ready
To pay a price we can't afford?
So much more than merely speaking,
Though our mouths say 'He is Lord',
We'd rather take the easy road
To reach the end, without the pain,
But it is only by His suffering
All of Heaven, ours to gain.

Not the world, but things of God,
Informing us, in every thought,
Looking to the Word to guide us
Wins the victory Christ has bought.

Obedience may be a struggle,
But when we do, we'll surely see
All the wonder He has for us:
The rule of God will set us free!

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LOVE LIKE CHRIST

What really counts: how much we love,
And, when we truly get it right,
It makes the difference:
The light He shines is burning bright.

But can we love beyond the ones
So much like us, not on our team,
To sail a course on unknown seas,
A cat that doesn't get the cream?

If we define what love must be,
And set the limits we decide,
We'll never see the very ones
Our loving God brings to our side.

Reach out, in love, through stormy waters,
His Word to follow to the letter;
God's love command is challenging,
But take the plunge, and surface better.

Living love the only way,
To love ourselves and others too,
Spreading love, extravagant,
As God the Father calls us do.

Our new intention, His the purpose,
Reconciled to seek the lost,
Every step, however small:
The risk is surely worth the cost.

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MISSION POSSIBLE

[Reflections from Mark 5]

Salt and light, we're called to be,
Sailing on a stormy sea;
Time to step out in the world,
Time to see good news unfurled.

Such good news must be declared,
Being bold, no longer scared,
Following the Father's will,
Makes our vision bigger still.

Opposition each one faces,
Journeying to darker places:
No plain sailing, great waves riding,
From the challenge there's no hiding.

The other side we shall be reaching,
By trusting in the Saviour's teaching;
The Son of God is in control:
Encouragement for heart and soul.

Each fresh encounter leads to awe,
He brings us safely to the shore,
Confident despite our fear,
The Saviour, with us, ever near.

This is where redemption forms,
Calming those with inner storms,
There is no one without hope,
Ripped away, each chain and rope;
When we're sharing Jesus' love
Transformation from above,
Dark dispelled and light shone through:
For this is what God longs to do.

Now the time, and this the hour,
Those held down by Satan's power
Delivered by the hand of Jesus,
He has authority to free us:
For we have nothing more to fear,
With Jesus walking ever near.

To minister to those who need it,
To bring them hope and gently feed it,
For this is where we should be heading,
Our worldly inhibitions shedding;
To those He loves we're called to reach,
Our landing on the furthest beach,
Against the darkness, give no quarter:
With Him, we're walking on the water.

Although we're finding it so hard,
Let's reach into our own backyard,
For there are many to be found:
And spread God's mercy all around!

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HAND ON HEART

My hand is on my heart,
No better place where it could be;
But it all counts for nothing,
If it's only about me.

My heart, broke open wide,
For the lonely and the lost;
To draw them back to You, Lord,
And prepared to pay the cost.

My heart should be on fire,
With my soul prepared to bleed;
The giving of my everything,
In meeting others' need.

My heart is in your hand:
Secure and safely held;
And it all counts for everything,
When love and mercy meld.

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