

Choosing Love over a Throne

Touted as one of the great love stories of all time, the affair of King Edward VIII of England and Mrs. Wallis Simpson of the United States has long been the subject of fascination by romantics the world over.

Many have looked to their relationship as an example of selfless romantic love. After all, what could be more selfless, more romantic, than a king who leaves his throne for the woman he loves?

Unfortunately, Edward was, in fact, a womanizer with a penchant for married women. Simpson was a married woman already once divorced. While the king did end his relationships with the other married women in his life (there were two others at the time of his first meeting with Simpson), this can hardly be deemed *selfless* love. Nevertheless, his infatuation with Simpson was persistent.

Faced with the prospect of his entire government resigning over his scandalous affair, King Edward decided he would rather retain the relationship with his mistress than with his government.

With these words, King Edward VIII, on Dec. 10, 1936, abdicated his throne in favor of love, saying: *I, Edward the Eighth, of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Emperor of India, do hereby declare My irrevocable determination to renounce the Throne for Myself and for My descendants, and My desire that effect should be given to this Instrument of Abdication immediately.*

Regardless of the backstory, hopeless romantics still cling to the image of selfless sacrifice – a king willing to give up all for his beloved.

If a royal love story of selfless sacrifice is what you are yearning, you need look no further than the pages of Scripture. There you will read of the King of the Universe who likewise relinquished His throne for love.

Only, in those pages, you'll not read any scandalous backstory. You'll only read of the One who loved so purely, so deeply, that He was willing to give up all to gain relationship – eternal relationship – with those He loved.

Our challenge is to love even as He did.

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:3-8 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter