

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of January 9, 2022

John 13:1-17

Sermon Series: *This is Love*

Shepherds,

This section is so freighted with God's love, powerful truth, promise of bearing fruit, and challenge. I am assuming that there will be weeks that you will focus on something not in the notes. This is a very rich passage. I'm praying that the Holy Spirit will lead us all.

SHARE FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE

Who modeled serving others in your family of origin? What did you see?

In my home, my mom raised 4 children, cared for her mother, and worked full time. Busy and caring.

DIG IN TO LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

We are beginning one of the most significant portions of all of Scripture. It is the longest recorded instruction from Jesus to His disciples. He overviews how He has loved and served them, the call to love another, and the charge to continue His mission. He also says how it will be possible for them to do the supernatural work of God and assures them of His abiding presence and love. Let's dig in!

The background. Read the following selections to understand the significance of chapter thirteen. What do we learn from each of them?

In the passages below, we read of Jesus repeated prophecy that he was going to suffer for us. Religious leaders were plotting, others were adoring their king. All through this, Jesus spoke of the hour (23) when He would be glorified (28). Included in this hour was judgment and a call to put their faith in "the light."

12:3, 7

12:9-11

12:15-16

12:23-27

12:28

12:32-33

12:35, 44-46

Read this week's passage in John 13:1-17.

What is the tone of this gathering?

After all the days of prophecy that led us to this time, the tone is solemn for two reasons: (1) Jesus' prophecies of what was coming, and (2) it was the time of the Passover feast.

Who is present or mentioned in this gathering?

Jesus, the Father, the devil, Judas Iscariot, God, the disciples (5 – notice how far into the passage before they are mentioned), Simon Peter

According to verses 1-3, what is happening in this and the unseen world?

This passage begins by referring to

- Jesus coming into and now leaving this world (1, 3)
- Jesus' return to the Father (1,3)
- That He came to love those in the world
- What He was doing with them in the upper room
- The battle between God and the devil
- That though it didn't appear true, that all things were under Jesus' power

What precipitated Jesus' actions? (1)

The "hour" was upon them. Jesus knew that "the time had come for Him to leave this world."

What did Jesus "know" that the disciples did not yet understand? (1-3)

Jesus knew that He was leaving to return to be with the Father. This also meant that His hour of betrayal, death, and resurrection was near.

What might Jesus have wanted the disciples to understand by His act of servitude? (4–7)

What Jesus did was shocking, but not nearly as shocking as His coming to earth to die in their / our place. Jesus had been serving them all along but would soon perform the greatest act of service of all time, that God Himself would die for us.

What did Jesus' "washings" represent? How are they connected with His background statements? (12:23-26, 47)

In the background was Jesus' death on our behalf. This was necessary because without it, we were left unclean and unable to be with God. The washings represent Jesus' act of cleansing that occurs as we put our faith in Jesus who died for us. Baptism also points to the work of Jesus' forgiveness of sin.

What was behind Peter's objection and how did Jesus answer?

Peter objected to Jesus washing Peter's feet. This is because this was a servant's role and Jesus was his master. Jesus explained to Peter that unless He washed him, Peter could not be clean.

In summary: What do we learn about the character of Jesus / God in this passage?

Jesus demonstrated His humble and sacrificial life of coming to earth. That is, He acted out what His entire life has been and the purpose of His coming – to cleanse us. It is summarized in Philippians 2: "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!"

What are we to do to follow Jesus' example? (15) Was this about washing feet?

We are to live like Jesus (Philippians 2:1-4), laying down our lives for Jesus and His people, continuing Jesus' mission to reach this world with His good news.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What stands out to you about Jesus?

I'm both amazed and humbled by Jesus' great sacrifice that flows from His love. This love is beyond what I can fathom. John 15: ⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. ... ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ... ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

What do we learn about and from Jesus that we are to follow? (15-17) How is this different than a specific application or law?

Jesus wasn't asking us to wash feet. Rather, He is calling us to take on His character and mission. This is amazing – that He entrusts us with this role in our world.

WORSHIP

This passage reveals our amazing God. How can we express worship of Jesus?

Throughout this passage we will have great reason to give God thanks and praise. Perhaps consider how you worship Him. (In song, in readings, in prayer, in thanksgiving, in communion, etc.)