

## Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of January 16, 2022

John 13:18-38

**Sermon Series:** *This is Love*

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Note: Todd is out sick and Bill Born is speaking this week.

Dear Shepherds,

This chapter is an amazing display of Jesus' love. First, He humbles Himself and informs them that they are clean because of Him (the cross is coming tomorrow). Then, two of his own men hurt Him deeply (it says that He was "troubled in spirit"). Judas betrays Him and Peter will soon deny Him. And yet, Jesus still washed their feet. O my, what love.

So whatever else you do this week, spend some time pondering the deep love of Jesus.

### WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE

How do you know that you are loved? What are the specific indicators?

While we do have different love preferences (e.g. love languages), nothing is more telling than love revealed in action.

### LET'S LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

We're in a series entitled "This is love." A perfect title for this week's chapter.

After repeatedly telling His disciples that He was going to suffer and die, Jesus gathered with them to celebrate the Passover Festival. These were their final hours together before he was arrested.

This passage begins with a powerful statement: "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." (13:1) Then, Jesus washed their feet, put His clothes on, and returned to His place. (13:2-17) They ate the Passover meal together while situated around a low table. Read what happens during dinner in John 13:18-38.

What are big events in this passage?

- Jesus, troubled in spirit, identifies his betrayer.
- Jesus revealed that His hour had arrived for Him to be glorified (at the cross)
- He told the disciples that He was going away and will not be with them
- He gave them a new command: Love one another
- Peter was troubled by Jesus' statement that He was going, and said that he would lay down his life for Jesus
- Jesus revealed that Peter would disown (deny) Him three times

How is 13:18-30 distinct from 13:31-38? Who or what are the foci?

The first passage focuses on Judas, the second on Jesus' departure and Peter's denial.

Since we know that this is focused on Jesus loving them "to the end," what are the ways that Jesus demonstrates His love in 13:18-30? (These may be immediate or realized later)

- He ate the Passover meal with them, spending his final hours encouraging and teaching
- He told them what was going to happen. This would later build their faith
- Jesus warned them about Judas - Jesus pointed out that the betrayal would be through Judas

Why did Jesus quote Psalm 41? (13:18-20)

This passage foretold of one close to him that would betray him.

What do you think that people in the room were feeling? (Jesus, disciples, Judas) (13:18-30)

Jesus was troubled in spirit

The disciples were troubled by Jesus' words – that He would be betrayed

Judas was focused on his evil task and then filled with Satan.

Jesus could have done things in private with Judas, but He chose to unveil the betrayer in the presence of the disciples (though they didn't notice at the time). Why do you think He did this?

This was so that when the disciples looked back, they would (1) recognize His love, (2) His willingness to sacrifice Himself, (3) that Jesus was never under someone else's control, (4) that this fulfilled Scripture.

What indicators are there, that though Jesus was being betrayed by a man indwelt by Satan, Jesus was still in control and was willingly giving Himself up?

Jesus knew Judas' identity, his plan, He told him when to leave, and to do what he planned "quickly." He even timed it with a piece of bread.

After Judas was gone, Jesus changed the focus to the hour of His glorification, that His time had come to go to the cross. (13:31-32) (Glorification is defined by Pastor Todd as "To shine the light on someone, to make them the focus of attention and honor.") How is the cross the hour of Jesus' greatest moment of glory? What is being revealed at the cross and how is this connected to this passage?

The cross reveals God's / Jesus' sacrificial love – so grand, so marvelous, and so unlike any other. It also reveals God's master plan to make a way for people to be with glorious God forever.

Jesus "New command" (34-35) is a continuation of His command in 13:15-17? Why might this follow Jesus' words about going to the cross (31-33)?

The cross is a revelation of God's / Jesus' deep character of love. Jesus' followers are to be like their teacher and master. God's way is always love. Therefore, God's people are to be people of love.

Peter can't get past Jesus' announcement of "going where you cannot come." What does Peter promise? What, perhaps, was Peter feeling or wanting?

Peter is horrified at the idea of Jesus going away where he cannot come. Peter promises to "lay down my life for you." Peter was feeling fear, deep loss, and panic. His overarching desire was to be with Jesus.

What was Jesus' response to Peter's promise? (This was also made public) How does all this point to Jesus' love for them?

Jesus revealed that Peter would soon disown (deny) Him three times. Later, we see Jesus would restore Peter into good graces. I think this increased Peter's love for Jesus when He restored him.

Jesus had just washed the feet of both Judas and Peter (He loved them to the end). One would betray Jesus, one would deny Him. Contrast Judas and Peter; How are they different?

Judas and Peter had both seen Jesus do miracles, raise people from the dead, and heard his teaching for years. And yet, when Judas didn't get what he wanted, he betrayed Jesus. When Peter didn't get what he wanted, he did deny him, but he repented and was restored.

When we see Jesus sacrificial love (washing their feet, loving both men, and going to the cross), how is Jesus' clear and overarching command connected? (13:34-35) Why insert this command right here?

In the midst of Jesus greatest act of love, He wanted them to observe and follow. This was the perfect time and place to issue this command. It was freighted with passion, modeling, and impact.

NOTE: At the last supper, Jesus used a piece of bread two ways: one to point out the one who would betray him, the other to remember that He gave up Himself for us. How might this affect how we think or feel when we celebrate communion?

Bread was a common item at a meal, but twice Jesus used a piece of bread to demark a significant moment.

When we receive the bread of communion, we should be thankful that we have a seat at His table forever.

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

This is an incredible and magnificent passage! What stands out to you about Jesus? What do you think or feel as you think on this? How can we respond to Him?

There is so much love shown. May Jesus be glorified in your conversation.

Jesus introduced the new Messianic era, the new kingdom, with a new command: "A new command I give you: Love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." How does this "new command" reflect the character and mission of Jesus? Was seeing this lived out an influence in your coming to know Jesus?

Could you describe yourself as "the disciple whom Jesus loves?" (13:23) What gets in the way of us believing this? What helps?

It is impossible to overstate God's love for us. However, it is sometimes difficult for us to truly, fully, and constantly believe that He loves us. This can be because of past experiences, or awareness that we don't deserve it, or even struggle with disappointment of unanswered prayers.

Grace and love to you, my brothers and sisters.

Steve