**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Christ-Like Love |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | John 13:1-15, 34 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2224 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. It has been said that a person’s greatest need is to be loved and to be able to show and to give love.
   2. In this message, we will look at the last commandment that Jesus gave before His arrest, trial, and crucifixion.
      1. John 13:34
      2. Today’s message will deal with Christ-like love.
         1. Jesus gave us an example of this love.
            1. It was the washing of His disciples’ feet.

John 13:1-5

* 1. In Bible times, there was a wonderful custom.
     1. People of this time wore open sandals.
     2. The roads were not paved then as our roads are paved today with asphalt and concrete.
        1. So, there was a lot of dust, grit, and dirt.
     3. If someone were to come into a well-to-do house in that day, there would have been a pot full of water, a basin, a bench, and generally there would have been a servant there who would wash the guest’s feet.
  2. Jesus instituted the Last Supper (a memorial feast) just before the Passover.
     1. Jesus knew that His hour had come.
        1. He knew that He would be crucified.
        2. He knew that Judas would betray him.
     2. When Jesus and His disciples went into the house for the Last Supper, there was no servant there to wash their feet.
        1. No one volunteered for that task.
     3. Jesus took off His outer garments and laid them aside.
        1. Jesus, the Lord of Glory, knowing that He had come from God and that He was going to God and that the Father had committed all things into His hands, washed the smelly feet of fishermen, tax collectors, and others.
           1. John 13:3-5
           2. John 13:14
  3. John 13:34
     1. In today’s message, we will look at four characteristics of this kind of love and see if they are true in our hearts and lives.

1. christ-like love is selfless love (john 13:4)
   1. Many of us are preoccupied with ourselves.
      1. Go into any bookstore and you will see books about self-love, self-esteem, self-glory, and self-fulfillment.
         1. Our society is based on these things.
   2. The Lord Jesus Christ humbled Himself and did the labor of a slave or a servant.
      1. It was not without significance that He rose from supper and laid aside His garments.
         1. John 13:4
         2. The Lord Jesus actually, literally, and physically did this.
         3. This was symbolic of what He did when He stepped out of Glory.
            1. He laid aside the garments of Glory, that were His in Heaven, and came down to this Earth.
      2. Philippians 2:5-8
         1. Jesus is co-equal, co-eternal, and co-essential with God the Father.
            1. This is basic Christianity.
            2. We serve one God who has revealed Himself to us in three Persons.
      3. Jesus stepped out of Heaven and went from sovereignty to slavery.
      4. He humbled Himself and became obedient.
         1. In contrast, Satan in his pride said that he would ascend and be like the Most High.
            1. Isaiah 14:13-14
      5. Philippians 2:9-10
   3. Many of us fight for reputation, but Jesus laid aside His reputation.
      1. We like to talk about how we come from nothing to something.
      2. The Lord Jesus came from something and made Himself of no reputation.
      3. Luke 22:24-26
         1. Just before Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, there was a big dispute.
         2. Jesus never said not to be great; He just said to make sure that it is real greatness that we get.
            1. Real greatness is service.
         3. The disciples argued about who was better and who would sit at Jesus’ right hand.
            1. They acted like pagans.
            2. If you want to be great, then serve and forget about yourself.
   4. Humility is not thinking lowly of yourself.
      1. Some people say that they are no good.
         1. That’s not humility; that’s just poor posture.
      2. Jesus, in the greatest act of humility, washed His disciples’ feet.
         1. He was not thinking lowly of Himself.
            1. John 13:3
            2. Knowing who He was, He laid aside His garments, took a towel, and washed His disciples’ feet.

That was humility.

* + 1. You are somebody.
       1. If you have been born of God, then you are going to God, also.
       2. You can be a servant.
       3. You can lay aside your pride.
          1. Real love is selfless love.
  1. Romans 12:3
     1. You are what you are by the grace of God.
     2. The grace of God exalts a person without inflating him, and it humbles a person without debasing him.
        1. We don’t live in sinful exaggeration or false humiliation but in sober estimation.
        2. Therefore, I am free to serve you.
  2. Grace
     1. Grace is God’s acceptance of me.
        1. God accepts me, not because of my goodness.
     2. Romans 5:8
     3. Ephesians 1:6
  3. Faith
     1. Faith is my acceptance of God’s acceptance of me.
        1. I accept that God accepts me.
  4. Peace
     1. If God accepts me, then I am to accept me.
     2. When we see the grace of God and put our faith in the grace of God, then for the first time the peace of God comes into our hearts.
        1. We stop trying.
        2. We start trusting.
           1. There is peace because now I accept me.
     3. Most of us never accept ourselves.
        1. We are still struggling to make ourselves acceptable.
           1. We can’t do it.
        2. Accept the fact by faith that God has accepted you, and be at peace.
     4. There are some who say that we are not supposed to love ourselves, but that is wrong.
        1. We are to love ourselves, but we are not to love our faults.
           1. This is not talking about egotism.
        2. God loves us.
           1. It is alright for us to love what God loves.
        3. The Bible says that we are to love one another as we love ourselves.
           1. Matthew 22:39
           2. If we don’t love ourselves, then we can’t love others.
        4. How do we love ourselves?
           1. We understand that we are what we are by the grace of God.
  5. Love
     1. I am free to accept you.
     2. Why can I accept you and you accept me?
        1. I don’t have to put you down or brag in order to build myself up because I know who I am in Jesus Christ.
           1. I’ve been born of God, and I’m going to God.
           2. Therefore, I don’t have to try to be the greatest.
        2. I can show love to you.
           1. I will never run out of that love because the more love I give you, the more love He gives me.

It flows through me and flows through you.

* 1. Fellowship
     1. You are free to accept me because I am not the person I used to be.
     2. This is what God wants.
     3. We have fellowship as we learn to love one another.
  2. Christ-like love is selfless love.
     1. It is not being concerned about number one.
     2. It is real humility.
     3. Unbounded love and pride can never dwell in the same heart.
     4. Only in pure humility can there be genuine love.

1. christ-like love is steadfast love (john 13:1)
   1. Jesus knew that the crucifixion was near.
      1. Jesus didn’t stop loving them; He kept on loving them.
   2. If we examine the lives of the disciples, then we find that they were not that loveable at that time.
      1. Peter cursed, swore, and denied Jesus.
      2. James and John talked about who would be the greatest in the Kingdom.
      3. They were filled with fear.
         1. But Jesus just kept on loving them.
   3. Many times, we excuse ourselves from loving others.
      1. We excuse ourselves when we’re irritable because we’re tired.
         1. We bark and snap at other people.
         2. We say that if they knew what we had been through, then they would understand.
   4. But as Jesus faced the cross, He showed love.
      1. He knew that the hour was coming, and He would be crucified.
         1. Still, He steadfastly loved them.
   5. If our so-called love cannot stand the test of excruciating times, then we don’t have real love at all.
      1. Any pagan can love when the times are good.
   6. Jesus loved under extreme pressure.
      1. Many of us have erupted at others.
         1. We apologize and say that we were under so much pressure.
         2. If we want to know what we are full of, then just see what spills out when we get jostled.
      2. While Jesus was in the midst of extreme duress and extreme pressure, knowing that He was about to be crucified, He steadfastly loved His disciples.
         1. Real love loves unto the end.
      3. All of us have had friends, whom we call fair weather friends, that are like passengers on a ship.
         1. When everything is smooth, they are on board with us.
            1. But when the water gets rough, they bale out.

Real love will never let us go.

* 1. No matter what you do, Jesus will never let you go.
     1. “Having loved His own, He loved them all the way to the end.”
        1. John 13:1
  2. What can separate us from the love of Christ?
     1. Romans 8:38-39
     2. You are loved.
     3. The devil tells us that we have messed up, we’ve blown it, and that God doesn’t love us anymore.
        1. That is a lie.
     4. God does love you.
        1. There is nothing that you can do that will make Him love you any more.
        2. There is nothing that you can do that will make Him love you any less.
        3. He doesn’t love us because we are lovely.
           1. He loves us because of His grace.

1. christ-like love is serving love (john 13:4-5)
   1. 1 John 3:18
      1. We are not to just love in word but in deed and in truth.
   2. Real love knows no job that is too lowly to do.
      1. The feet that Jesus washed included Judas’ feet.
         1. Jesus knew that Judas would soon betray Him, but Jesus washed Judas’ feet.
         2. Jesus said to bless those that persecute us and to do good to them that despitefully use us.
            1. Matthew 5:44
            2. Jesus didn’t practice what He preached; He preached what He practiced.

Jesus served.

* 1. Love is not giving to someone else what they deserve.
     1. Love is giving to someone what they need.
        1. That is what real love does.
  2. The disciples didn’t deserve to have their feet washed, but Jesus knew the love that they needed.
  3. If all church members had Christ-like love, then we would not have to beg for people to work in the nursery, Vacation Bible School, or sing in the choir.
     1. Christ-like love is serving love.
     2. 1 John 3:18
     3. When we have Christ-like love, there is no job too small for us to do.
        1. Jesus, the Lord of Glory, served by washing dirty feet.

1. christ-like love is sanctifying love (john 13:6-15)
   1. In this passage, a change or transition happens.
      1. Jesus moved from the physical to the spiritual and from the literal to the symbolic.
      2. “What I do thou knowest not now.”
         1. Jesus went beyond the literal.
      3. “But thou shalt know hereafter.”
         1. Later on, Peter would understand the deeper meaning of this.
      4. Jesus talked about them as individuals.
         1. They were not all saved.
            1. Judas was unclean; Judas had never been saved.
      5. Jesus turned the conversation to symbolism.
         1. No longer did He talk about literal dirt.
         2. He talked about spiritual defilement that comes into our lives.
            1. All of us get contaminated by sin.
            2. We get our spiritual feet dirty because we live in a dirty, grimy, and dusty world.
      6. Jesus needed to wash Peter’s feet in order to have fellowship with him.
         1. John 13:8
         2. Peter didn’t need to be washed all over, just his feet needed to be washed.
   2. Salvation is called “the washing of regeneration.”
      1. Titus 3:5
      2. When we are saved, we are spiritually bathed and cleansed from the defilement of this world.
      3. But we still live in this world, and we still get our feet dirty.
         1. We still sin after we have been saved.
         2. We still walk in a dirty world.
         3. We need to have our spiritual feet washed.
   3. Peter wanted to be washed all over.
      1. But Jesus said that Peter had already been washed and was clean.
         1. Peter just needed to have his feet washed.
         2. John 13:9-10
   4. Once we are saved, that is it; but we have to keep getting our feet washed.
      1. Nowhere in the Bible will we find where someone was saved twice.
      2. Hebrews 10:14
      3. When we are saved, it is once and for all.
         1. But we need to come to the Lord Jesus for daily cleansing and daily foot washing (repentance and forgiveness).
   5. Jesus was not talking about some sort of a ceremony when He said that we ought to wash one another’s feet.
      1. John 13:14
      2. Some churches have this as a ceremony, and it is very beautiful.
      3. Jesus was not giving us a new church ordinance.
         1. It is much more practical than that and much more spiritual than that.
         2. Humility is not humility when it is put on display.
      4. Peter was going to get his feet dirty; Peter was going to betray Jesus.
         1. But Jesus would forgive Peter.
            1. John 21:15-19

Three times Jesus asked, “Peter, do you love Me?”

Three times Peter had denied the Lord Jesus.

* + - * 1. Jesus washed the feet of Simon Peter.

That day, Peter did not understand.

Later, he would understand what Jesus was talking about when He had washed Peter’s feet.

* 1. Jesus will never stop loving you.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Suppose right now that the Lord Jesus Christ had a towel, a basin, and asked to wash your feet.
      1. How would you feel?
      2. Would you let Jesus wash your feet?
   2. Suppose Jesus were to hand you the basin and asked you to wash His feet.
      1. Matthew 18:20
      2. Will you wash His feet?
         1. Jesus said that inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto Him.
            1. Matthew 25:40
         2. When you wash someone else’s feet, you are washing the feet of Jesus because that person is the body of Christ.
   3. Our ministry is to be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven us.
      1. Ephesians 4:32
      2. Do you know someone who needs his feet washed?
         1. Someone who has done you wrong?
         2. They haven’t done you as wrong as the disciples had done Jesus wrong.
            1. Peter cursed, swore, and denied Him.

Yet, Jesus washed Peter’s feet.

* 1. The church will be a wonderful place when we allow Jesus to wash our feet and to keep us clean day by day.
     1. And when we, with Christ-like love, wash one another’s feet.
     2. Is there someone you know whose feet need to be washed today?
  2. You can’t wash feet without humility.
     1. It is impossible to look down upon someone while washing their feet.
  3. 1 John 1:9
  4. John 13:34
  5. Romans 5:5
  6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
  7. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
     1. Romans 3:23
     2. Romans 10:9-10
     3. Romans 10:13
     4. Acts 16:31
     5. John 3:16