

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Love as Jesus Loved

SERMON REFERENCE: John 13:34

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1686

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1) INTRODUCTION

a) John 13:34

i) This is the last commandment Jesus gave before His arrest, trial and crucifixion.

ii) Jesus called it a new commandment.

(1) The “new” part is that Jesus told us to love as He has loved us.

(2) Never before has the world known love like the love the Lord Jesus showed and gave.

iii) Not only did the Lord Jesus give this commandment, but He also demonstrated it through His life.

b) It has been said that the greatest need of mankind is to love and to be loved.

i) And, yet, we live in a generation where it is getting harder to love.

ii) Matthew 24:12

(1) The word “iniquity” here means “lawlessness.”

(2) Lawlessness causes people to be frightened and to retreat; we become afraid to love.

(a) And we have no desire to love those who are wicked and so vile.

c) We are to love one another as Jesus has loved us.

i) Though it is extremely hard, we are to love those who are hard to love.

(1) This includes those who have betrayed us, hurt us or disappointed us.

d) John 13:1-5

i) Foot washing was a custom in Bible times.

(1) In wealthy homes, a servant would wash the feet of guests.

(a) There was very little pavement at that time, just dusty roads.

(i) The feet of visitors and guests would be dusty.

(2) The mark of a slave was that he would wear an apron, or towel, girded about him.

(3) The custom of foot washing would cleanse, refresh and relax the guests.

ii) Jesus is with His disciples, and He lays aside His garment and puts on the slave’s garment (He girds Himself with a towel).

(1) Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begins to do slave labor.

(a) He washes the smelly feet of fishermen.

(b) Among those whose feet Jesus washed was Judas, the one who would betray Him unto death.

(c) Jesus also washed the feet of Simon Peter, who would also betray Him and deny Him.

(d) Jesus washed the feet of Thomas, the doubter.

(e) Jesus washed all of the disciples’ feet.

e) We need to learn how to love as Jesus loves.

2) JESUS’ LOVE IS A SELFLESS LOVE (JOHN 13:3)

a) Jesus is the master of the universe; He rules over everything, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hand.

- i) He knew His Heavenly origin and His Heavenly destination.
- ii) Jesus knew His authority and His power.
- iii) And He washed the disciples' feet.
- b) Luke 22:24-26
 - i) Earlier in the same evening when Jesus washed their feet, the disciples had been bickering about who was going to be the greatest.
- c) John 13:4
 - i) This pictures the Lord Jesus, when He came from Heaven, laying aside His glory.
 - ii) It is a picture of the Lord Jesus self-emptying.
 - (1) Philippians 2:5-6
 - (a) This literally means a thing "to be grasped."
 - (b) Jesus did not have to reach out to be equal with God (as Satan said in Isaiah 14:14) because He is like the Most High.
 - (2) Philippians 2:7-8
 - (a) The one who washed the disciples' feet was the one who had laid aside His garment and took the slave garment.
 - (b) The devil became the devil by saying, "I will ascend."
 - (c) Our Lord Jesus said, "I will descend."
 - (i) When Jesus Christ came to Earth, He laid aside His rights; but He never set aside His Deity.
 - (3) Philippians 2:5
 - (a) When a person clings to his earthly rights, we can be certain that he is walking far away from the Lord.
- d) Jesus made Himself of no reputation, while most of us are fighting for our reputations.
 - i) We talk about how we went from nothing to something.
 - ii) The Lord Jesus came from highness to lowliness.
 - iii) A great need in America today is humility.
 - (1) John 13:3-4
 - (2) Real humility is not thinking lowly of yourself; it is not thinking of yourself.
 - (a) Self-acceptance is not pride; it is the cure for pride.
 - (b) Jesus, knowing that He came from God and was going to God, was willing to serve.
 - (3) While Jesus came from God, we are born of God and are also going to God if we are Christians.
 - (a) As Christians, we have come from God because we are created in the image of God and are redeemed by the blood of Christ and are going to God.
 - (4) Romans 12:3
 - (a) The grace of God exalts us without inflating us, and it humbles us without defacing us.
 - (5) The Lord Jesus showed us true humility.

- (a) Jesus, knowing that He came from and was going to God and that God the Father had put everything into His hands, was the one who laid aside His garments, took a towel and washed the fishermen's feet.
 - (i) This is true love.
 - e) Pride drives wedges; humility always builds bridges of love.
 - i) There are five steps to building bridges with others:
 - (1) God accepts me.
 - (a) This is grace.
 - (b) Ephesians 1:6
 - (c) God accepts us because He loves us.
 - (2) I accept that God accepts me.
 - (a) He did this on the cross when Christ died for us.
 - (b) This is faith.
 - (i) Faith is my acceptance of God's acceptance of me.
 - (ii) 1 John 4:19
 - (3) I accept me.
 - (a) This is peace.
 - (b) Not only do we have peace with God, but we also have the peace of God.
 - (c) God loves us, and we should love what God loves.
 - (i) Mark 12:31
 - (ii) This is not selfish love.
 - 1. This is loving what God loves.
 - 2. This is selfless love.
 - (4) Because I have accepted me, I can accept you.
 - (a) When we know that God loves us, then we don't have to use others, manipulate, lie, deceive, try to impress or put others down.
 - (i) We know who we are in Christ.
 - (b) We can now love others as Jesus loved these disciples.
 - (c) This is love.
 - (5) You're free to accept me.
 - (a) This is fellowship.
 - (b) The word in the Bible, "koinonia," means "sharing the same life" or "fellowship."
 - f) There is nothing so empty as a self-centered life, and there is nothing so centered as a self-emptied life.
- 3) JESUS' LOVE IS A STEADFAST LOVE (JOHN 13:1)
- a) Jesus never stops loving.
 - i) Jesus washed His disciples' feet on the way to the cross.
 - b) It is easier to love when things are going right; even those who don't know Jesus can love that way.

- i) Character that cannot stand up under pressure and under testing is not real.
 - ii) Unsaved people love when everything is lovely.
 - c) Jesus' love is an unconditional love.
 - i) The disciples were bundles of mistakes, failures and disappointment.
 - (1) Jesus kept on loving them.
 - d) Jesus will never stop loving us; and if we want to love as Jesus loves, then we will never stop loving.
- 4) JESUS' LOVE IS SERVING LOVE (JOHN 13:4-5)
- a) Our Lord doesn't just love in word only, but in deed and in truth.
 - b) Love knows no job too lowly to do.
 - i) Jesus washed the feet of Judas.
 - (1) Jesus met the greatest injury with service.
 - (2) Matthew 5:44
 - ii) Jesus did not practice what He preached; He preached what He practiced.
 - c) Love does not give people what they deserve; it gives people what they need.
 - d) Love is willing to serve at the lowest of tasks.
 - e) 1 John 3:18
 - i) God has called us to serve.
- 5) JESUS' LOVE IS SANCTIFYING LOVE (JOHN 13:6-11)
- a) In this passage, Jesus is not talking about physical dirt but spiritual defilement.
 - i) He knew that Judas was going to betray Him.
 - (1) Judas had never had a spiritual bath.
 - ii) Simon Peter had already been saved.
 - (1) Peter did not need his head or hands washed because he had already had a spiritual bath.
 - (2) Like Peter, we walk in a dirty world, so our spiritual feet get defiled.
 - (3) We need our spiritual feet washed.
 - iii) Jesus is teaching Peter that His love is sanctifying.
 - (1) When Peter cursed and denied Christ, Jesus spiritually washed Peter's feet.
 - (a) Jesus forgave, restored, renewed and refreshed Peter.
 - b) Those who do us wrong need us to wash their feet.
 - i) Ephesians 4:32
 - ii) John 13:14
 - iii) If Jesus can forgive us, then surely, we can forgive others.
 - c) By washing the disciples' feet, Jesus was not creating a church ceremony, like baptism or the Lord's Supper.
 - i) Jesus was teaching us that if He is willing to show us love when we have sinned against Him, then we ought to forgive one another.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) Matthew 18:20
- b) Jesus wants to wash our feet today.
 - i) He wants to forgive us, restore us and refresh us.
- c) We can also wash the feet of Jesus.
 - i) Matthew 25:40
 - ii) The church is the body of Christ; as Christians, we are members of one another.
 - (1) When we forgive and restore others, we are doing it as unto the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d) We will never look down on someone while we are washing their feet.
- e) Have you allowed the Lord Jesus to wash your feet?
 - i) Have you experienced the forgiveness and restoration that the Lord Jesus Christ offers?
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16