

Love as Jesus Did
May 6, 2007
John 13:1-11, 34-35
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Synopsis:

In one of the strangest and most awkward scenes in the Bible, Jesus places a towel around his waist and begins to wash the feet of his disciples. They protest, and he commands, "Just as I have washed your feet, so you should love one another." And he adds, "By washing one another's feet, people will know that you are my disciples."

Jesus calls us to love as he loved. When others see us doing this, they know that we are Jesus' disciples.

I.

The Context of Love

John 13:1 "Jesus knew that his hour had come"

Upper Room Discourses 13-17

READ 1-3 What Does Jesus Know?

| | |
|--|-------|
| Hour had come (to die) | 1 |
| Disciples would betray (Judas and Peter) | 2, 11 |
| Devil at work (sub-human power) | 2 |
| Has power to act | 3 |
| God is at work in him | 3 |

If you knew these things what would you do?

- Fear at death
- Anger against disciples
- Get discouraged
- Anxious over decisions
- Doubt God is at work

What will we do at Geneva? Major initiatives coming

- Hour has come: Jesus, Bible, Feet
- People will sabotage
- Devil at work (sub-human power)
- We have power to act

God is at work

II.

The Decision of Love

John 13:1 “He loved them till the end”

READ 1 and 4: What does Jesus decide to do?

Love till the end vs. bail out, conditional, plot revenge

Take action vs. run away, get angry

*Love is a decision to do something, not a feeling

What are we going to do with one another?

What are we going to do in our community?

III.

The Action of Love

John 13:5 “He began to wash the disciples’ feet”

READ 4-10: What does Jesus do?

House servant (gentile) action before supper 16

Symbolic for death

7

When has someone intentionally served you?

How are we going to serve with intention this community?

IV.

The Command of Love

John 13:34 “You also should love one another”

READ 34-35 What does Jesus command, and what does it mean?

Do the same as he does

Love (action for one another) is *the* sign of discipleship

*Communion is the sign of discipleship:

-John no Eucharist at Last Supper as in other Gospels

-Footwashing is the sign for death and discipleship

-This afternoon, we go to home footwashing/communion

How will you wash the feet of your brothers and sisters?

How will we of Geneva wash the feet of our community?