

The Night Before He Bled

Week 1: Love

Weekly Summary: Jesus knew the time of his betrayal and death was drawing near. So, what did he do? He showed his friends the full extent of his love. He humbled himself, washed the very feet that would later abandon him, and encouraged his followers to love one another. In an age when many Christians are panicking, hiding, reacting, and living in fear, Jesus' words are urgent for his 21st century friends.



- ❖ John 13:1-3 - It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.

◆ How do you know you are loved?

- ❖ John 13:4-5 - so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

❖ John 13:6-10 - He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” 7 Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” 8 “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” 9 “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!” 10 Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean...

◆ Jesus went to great lengths to speak God's love language.

❖ Philippians 2:5-8 - In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature^[a] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

❖ John 13:12-17 - When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

◆ Go to great lengths to let others know they are loved.

❖ 1 John 4:7-9, 16-17, 19, 21 - Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 19 We love because he first loved us. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.



Points to Ponder

1. In any culture, Jesus washing the disciples' feet would be extremely hard to watch. Why do you think that is the case? Why do you think that none of the disciples except Peter objected? How would you respond if Jesus washed your feet?
2. Jesus went to great lengths to let his disciples see and know they were loved by God. Discuss specific ways that Jesus spoke and still speaks the 5 Love Languages to his followers.
3. What's your preferred love language? Is it receiving gifts, physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, or acts of service? It is said that you may find even deeper satisfaction in using that language in your relationship with God and with other people. Think of one practical way you speak into the life of your spouse, kids, a co-worker, and a neighbor so that they will know they are loved this week.

Homework For Next Week: John 14:1-7

*"In the New Testament, love is more of a verb than a noun.
It has more to do with acting than with feeling.
The call to love is not so much a call to a certain
state of feeling as it is to a quality of action."
~ R.C. Sproul*