



JOHN 13:21-35
Loving One Another

DAY ONE
Observation

John 1-12 record the public ministry of Jesus to the nation, while chapters 13-17 record the private ministry of Jesus with His disciples. Those who find the Messiah are taught what it means to follow Him.

The presence of Judas among the Twelve was a hindrance to further revelation on the part of Jesus. It was no obstacle to the example of sacrifice, but as long as Judas was in the group Jesus could not speak to them as a spiritual unit. "Ye are clean, but not all" showed the disunity which He recognized. This disunity was a source of grief to Jesus. "Troubled in the spirit" opens the paragraph. —Merrill Tenney

Pray and ask God to speak to your heart as you read John 13:21-35. Mark words or phrases that stand out to you. Record the main message or your thoughts next to each paragraph.

²¹ After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."

²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke.

²³ One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at the table at Jesus' side, ²⁴ so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵ So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?"

²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.

³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (ESV)

What thought or verse stands out to you in John 13:21-35? Why?

What do you learn about Judas from this passage...as well as from 12:4-6 and 13:2, 18?

Why do you think none of the disciples suspected that Judas was the traitor?

Write 3-5 observations that you can make from John 13:34-35.

DAY THREE Interpretation

In interpretation, you are digging deeper into the passage in order to better understand its meaning. A word study on a key word and/or looking up parallel passages can help you in your understanding.

Go to blueletterbible.org and type “John 13:34” into the “Search the Bible” box. Next click on John 13:34 to bring up the verse in the Greek (or select “Interlinear” from the Tools menu). Find the word “love” and click on the Strong’s number (G25) to bring up the Greek word, its definition, and its usage in other passages in the New Testament.

What is the Greek word for “love”? _____ (Use the transliteration.)

How many times is it used in the New Testament? _____ (See KJV Translation Count.)

How many times is it used in John? _____ (See Search Results by Book in right column.)

How many times is it used in the other gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke)? _____

In what other book of the NT is this word used more than 10x? _____

Read the following passages. Circle/highlight key characteristics and actions of biblical love.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. ’But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you...” (Matthew 5:43-44).

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:7-10)

How would you define “love” based on these passages? _____

DAY FOUR Devotion

Read the following excerpt from J.C. Ryle's *Expository Thoughts on John*.

13:20-31. Let us mark firstly...*what trouble our Lord Jesus went through for the sake of our souls.* We are told that shortly after washing the disciples' feet, He "was troubled in spirit, and said, 'One of you shall betray Me.'"

The whole length and breadth and depth of our Master's troubles during His earthly ministry are far beyond the conception of most people. His death and suffering on the cross were only the heading up and completion of His sorrows. But all throughout His life—partly from the general unbelief of the Jews—partly from the special hatred of the Pharisees and Sadducees—partly from the weakness and infirmity of His few followers—He must have been in a peculiar degree "a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." (Isa. 53:3.)

But the trouble before us was a singular and exceptional one. It was the bitter sorrow of seeing a chosen Apostle deliberately becoming an apostate, a backslider, and an ungrateful traitor. That it was a foreseen sorrow from the beginning we need not doubt; but sorrow is not less acute because long foreseen. That it was a peculiarly cutting sorrow is very evident. Nothing is found so hard for flesh and blood to bear as ingratitude. Even a poet of our own has said that it is "sharper than a serpent's tooth to have a thankless child." Absalom's rebellion seems to have been David's heaviest trouble, and Judas Iscariot's treachery seems to have been one of the heaviest trials of the Son of David. When He saw it drawing near He was "troubled in spirit."

Passages like these should make us see the amazing love of Christ to sinners. How many cups of sorrow He drained to the dregs in working out our salvation, beside the

mighty cup of bearing our sins. They show us how little reason we have for complaining when friends fail us, and men disappoint us. If we share our Master's lot we have no cause to be surprised. Above all, they show us the perfect suitableness of Christ to be our Savior. He can sympathize with us. He has suffered Himself, and can feel for those who are ill-used and forsaken.

13:32-35. These verses show us...*what great importance our Lord Jesus attaches to the grace of brotherly love.* Almost as soon as the false Apostle had left the faithful eleven, comes the injunction, "Love one another." ...It is called a "new" commandment, not because it had never been given before, but because it was to be more honored, to occupy a higher position, to be backed by a higher example than it ever had been before. Above all, it was to be the test of Christianity before the world. "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another."

Let us take heed that this well-known Christian grace is not merely a notion in our heads, but a practice in our lives. Of all the commands of our Master there is none which is so much talked about and so little obeyed as this. Yet, if we mean anything when we profess to have love toward all men, it ought to be seen in our tempers and our words, ...our behavior at home and abroad, our conduct in every relation of life. Specially it ought to show itself forth in all our dealing with other Christians. We should regard them as brethren and sisters, and delight to do anything to promote their happiness. We should abhor the idea of envy, malice, and jealousy towards a member of Christ, and regard it as a downright sin. This is what our Lord meant when He told us to love one another.

Christ's cause in the earth would prosper far more than it does if this simple law was more honored. There is nothing that the world understands and values more than true charity. The very men who cannot comprehend doctrine, and know nothing of theology, can appreciate charity. It arrests their attention, and makes them think. For the world's sake, if for no other cause, let us follow after charity more and more.

What stands out to you from Ryle's words?

DAY FIVE
Application

Re-read John 13:21-35 and consider the truths that you have learned this week. Seek to apply the message of John 13 to your daily life.

What thought or truth impacted you this week from your study of John 13:21-35? Why?

Write your name in place of the word "love" in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Read the verses out loud.

- _____ *is patient and kind.*
- _____ *does not envy or boast.*
- _____ *is not arrogant or rude.*
- _____ *does not insist on [his/her] own way.*
- _____ *is not irritable or resentful.*
- _____ *does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.*
- _____ *bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

Which of the above sentences convicts or challenges you the most? Why?

Have someone else read the verses with your name in it and ask for their input and evaluation.

God often puts a believer in our life who is particularly difficult for us to love. If someone comes to mind, pray for them by name now and ask God to give you the grace and strength to show love to them this week. And make a point to encourage and show love to others each day!