

# That You May Believe – Gospel of John

## John 13:1-38

"Love as I have Loved" – September 26, 2021



### **Introduction**

The twelve disciples were quite an interesting group of men. They were from diverse backgrounds. Matthew, the tax collector, and Simon, the Zealot, were even at opposite ends of the political spectrum. Yet Jesus picked them and put them on the same "team." Why? What were His expectations for them? What are His expectations for us – the church? In [John 13:34](#), Jesus commands and expects love for one another. It is evidence to a watching world that they and we are His disciples.

### **Pray**

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

### **Sermon Outline**

- I. Scene One: The Foot Washing [Vs. 1-17](#)
- II. Scene Two: The Prediction [Vs. 18-30](#)
- III. Scene Three: The Command [Vs. 31-38](#)

### **Read & Discuss**

#### 1) Read 13:1-17

It is the time of the Passover. Jesus, knowing His hour is come, is gathered with the twelve disciples. Here He begins giving them His farewell message before showing the "full extent of His love." The message begins with an example of humble service – washing the feet of the disciples. What is significant about Jesus washing their feet?

When we come to Jesus in repentance and faith, God declares the guilty sinner, innocent. But on this side of heaven, we still sin. What is so important about confession of sin in prayer?

After Jesus is finished washing the feet of the disciples, He tells them to do the same. This is a humble, sacrificial act. But at this point, they began to argue about who was the greatest. How do we become great in the kingdom of God? Are we shaped more by the world's definition of greatness or by the Bible's definition? What one thing can you do this week to serve the body of Christ?

**Additional Reading:** Exodus 12, Hebrews 10:12-14, Luke 22:14-30

#### 2) Read 13:18-30

Here, Jesus makes a startling announcement – One of the twelve would betray Him. Jesus is not taken by surprise by this; He is in charge the whole time – "no one takes my life; I lay it down"

(John 10:18) Why does Jesus tell the disciples in advance that He will be betrayed? (see vs. 19) Have you ever been betrayed by a friend or family member? Jesus knows the pain of betrayal.

Judas walked away from the Light of the world into the darkness of night. His actions were influenced by His expectations of what Jesus should do and be. What expectations do you have of Jesus? Do these expectations align with scripture?

**Additional Reading:** Psalm 41:9, Romans 1

3) Read 13: 31-38

In the Old Testament, the Jewish people were commanded to love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. They were commanded to love their Jewish neighbor. So what makes this command “new?”

- It had a new object – all peoples of every race, tribe and tongue
- It had a new standard – love as Jesus loves
- It had a new purpose – to show the work of God's Spirit in us and the church

In what ways does our love for one another demonstrate that we belong to Jesus? What can you do this week to demonstrate that love? How can you show love to someone when nothing inside you feels like loving them? Showing love is an overflow of the Spirit in your life. We are fellow heirs with Jesus. The benefits of showing love one are worth it. God is glorified when we show love to one another.

**Additional Reading:** Leviticus 19:18, Proverbs 14:4, James 1:22

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<b>*Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">John 14:1-31</a> “The Way, the Truth and the Life”
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