
SERMON NOTES October 18, 2020

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

John 13:1-17
Practical Sacrificial Love
Pastor Mike

- I. Jesus' love demonstrated in _____
- a. The practical need of _____
- b. The _____ of Jesus' _____ of love
- II. Humbling ourselves to _____ Jesus' love
- a. The danger of _____ masquerading as _____
- b. Our _____ need of washing through _____
- III. Humbling ourselves to _____ love by _____
- a. The relationship between _____ God's love
- b. The practical challenge of _____ today

Closing challenge

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. John begins this section dealing with the last night of Jesus' earthly life, by telling us in verse 1 of chapter 13, "*when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end,*" meaning that he showed them the full extent of his love. He then gives us the story of Jesus washing his disciple's feet. How is this action of Jesus the expression of how he loved them to the end?
2. Most Americans would associate humility with weakness and passivity. But in John 13 Jesus connects humility and servanthood with strength and assertiveness.
 - a. Why do we have such a low view of humility in our culture?
 - b. While we affirm the concept of humility within the church, do you think that in practice the American church actually pursues and celebrates humility and servanthood as marks of greatness? Why or why not?
 - c. In the account of Jesus washing Peter's feet (John 13:6-11) it could be said that Jesus was strong and even aggressive in his humility. Should we see strength and aggressiveness as traits that are consistent or inconsistent with humility?
3. Many people would define humility as having a low view of oneself. However here we see Jesus as the ultimate example of humility, yet he knew that he was God and thus clearly didn't have a low view of himself (see Phil 2:5-8).
 - a. If humility isn't having a low view of oneself, what is it?
 - b. Would having a low view of oneself contribute to a person being able to love and serve others, or would it detract from that ability?
 - c. What would a strong, confident, and assertive humility look like in your life?
4. When Jesus came to wash Peter's feet, Peter refused saying, "*you shall never wash my feet.*"
 - a. Why did Peter respond this way? In his message, Pastor Mike said that it was an expression of his pride, what did he mean? How can we be guilty of this kind of pride?
 - b. What is Jesus' teaching here teaching us about our need of continual confession and repentance as followers of Christ?
5. When many people think of Jesus washing his disciple's feet, they think of it as a powerful symbolic action. However, the cultural and historical context shows that the washing of feet was an extremely practical, although demeaning action. In John 13:15, Jesus doesn't call us to do what he has done, but he calls us to do to each other as he has done for us.
 - a. What are some modern parallels to washing another person's feet; practical and necessary acts of service that are humbling if not demeaning to perform?
 - b. As you reflect on the past week, did you wash anyone's feet? Where there times that you expected someone else to serve you, or wash your feet?
 - c. Make a list of at least three people (including your spouse if you are married) and think of a way that you can "wash the feet" of each this coming week.