

“Love One Another As I Have Loved You!”**Scripture: John 13:31-38 (vv34-35)****Facilitator: Rev. Alice D. Tamrie****I.Context: It’s all about godly love! (1 John 3:11-18; 1 John 4:7-11)**

Jesus was not surprised that Judas would betray him. He had announced this at least a year earlier (6:70). He knew whom He has chosen, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, *“He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me”*. (This expression meant a gesture of insult, or a preparation to kick...Judas was ready to strike). *Jesus was apparently grieved, deeply moved (13:19-20). His disciples reclining sitting around Jesus, relaxing, and eating and yet in his divine mind, knowing all the love he has generated for the past year or so, someone, namely Judas would betray him. The devil had put ideas in the head of Judas, deep in the heart with spiritual darkness, separating himself now from Jesus, the Light of the World!*

What a picture we get of the Son of Man as we open our lesson today when we don’t take to heart what Jesus says. He gave no specific identification who of the disciples, who it may be, but on the other hand it was an opportunity to speak up to the horrific intention of a wrong action to Jesus, but Jesus was the wiser. But once Judas got up, the bargain was sealed with the priests to do that betrayal for a few dollars. The yielding to selfish impulse opened the way to satanic control. Once Judas left, it was an opening for Jesus to continue his intimate talk with the remaining disciples. The opportunity to repent is always at hand if only some of us would be strong enough to heed. Oh, how Jesus’ heart must have felt knowing and witnessing, and feeling this moment. But he was about his Father’s will.

II.The Lesson: Love One Another as I Have Loved You.

Jesus demonstrated this love with deeds(acts) and in truth (genuineness and doctrine).

1. v. 31. When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him.

“He” Judas has departed into the night! What is packed in this statement is awesome! Jesus boldly affirms and witness that he has been appointed to save the world, that indeed he is the “Son of Man” and God is glorified in him. The Father and I are glorified together in seeing the ruined work redeemed and restored. What a powerful statement. This is Jesus’ last teaching at the Passover (Mt. 26:30). The bread was broken, indicating his broken body which was so marred by stripes and beatings that it did not look like a son man. Now we see Jesus for who he is, and God seen for who he is in him.

Here we see the big assignment of Jesus, the Incarnate Christ who is the representative of humanity before God and the representative of the deity in human life. He is found to be the fullness of his expression to all the disciples surrounding him at

the table. Wow, what a moment to hear all this as his disciples, chosen, to be loved and expected to follow Him.

2. v. 32. If God is glorified in him, then God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

Jesus continues this dialogue in this verse, with confidence. The word “glorify” occurs five times in vv. 32-32. Yet, what a divine connection – with his work and as it relates to his death. The Cross would become the supreme glory of God because the Son would completely obey the will of the Father. Glorification is a revealing of himself as the divine Son of God and Savior of the world by his death and resurrection, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is glorifying (revealing) the Father by completing the task assigned to him! He is saying this so confidently and boldly right here at the table reclining and sharing with all the disciples...what a divine awesome moment in time. What power statements coming from the Man called Jesus...truly speaking truth to power!

3. v. 33. “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.”

Wow, what an expression of love and concern for the Eleven remaining disciples, who must have seemed to him to be weak and immature. This is an expression of tender affection, as is repeatedly used by John in 1 John. He is recalling to their memory his words to the Jews: “Where I go, you cannot come” (8:21). To the disciples, he was speaking of the fact that they were unprepared to follow him but would rejoin him later (14:3). To the Jews he made no such promise; instead, he predicted that they would die in their sins because of their unbelief.

Oh, to be called “my children” is such an endearing, loving affirmation! Yet, being children, weak and immature, yet to grow in discipleship takes maturity.

4. vv. 34-35. “A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”

What a divine dialogue for the disciples to hear as Jesus continues in these potent verses in dialogue. This is our primary emphasis today: - the most important instruction that Jesus left for the Eleven was this “new commandment” to love one another. “New” implies freshness, rather than “different or recent”. If your motive is right in following Jesus, then the spirit of rivalry would disrupt their fellowship before they could accomplish his commission to them. The attitude of love would be the bond that would keep them united and would be the convincing demonstration that they had partaken of his own spirit and purpose! Jesus had loved them all and us without reservation and without limit (13:1-5) ...showing the full extent of his love! Washing their feet and eating that last meal with them.

Here we see how deeply reflective and meditatively we can see in the meaning and spiritual mystery of Jesus' meaningfulness of love, his sacrifice, motive so much so for us.

This command is to inspire us as disciples accordingly. We all possess spiritual gifts sprinkled in the faith community to us by God. And Jesus came to reflect that it takes sacrifice to do God's will! It takes this kind of love – what's love got to do with it? A moment of speaking truth to power is love– love covers it all as we undertake our purpose of meaningfulness in doing ministry. This is the ultimate bond- LOVE. What's your motive for being in ministry-be careful that it is not for prestige, position, power, but for love and Jesus certainly demonstrated it here in this dialogue without resignation and without limit and expected these disciples and us to do the same. This is a new standard "as I have loved you" ...a show of dedication and care with compassion. Amen.

5. v. 36. Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

We can only spiritually imagine that Jesus is in his consecutive teaching attempting to prepare the disciples for his departure and the now nervous unrest of the disciples who were disconcerted by the awareness of impending danger. As usual, Peter is the first to speak. We don't know the tone of Peter's question, but this is not the first time of Jesus speaking about going away (8:21). His audience of enemies were mystified and wondered in their secular mind – but here in this intimate circle of the Eleven disciples, they were equally puzzled; not as critical as his counterparts were. Jesus' answer reflects Peter's underlying meaning, for Jesus' promise, "You will follow later". So we have to smile because Peter always jump in without thinking, because he wanted to go with Jesus! Peter's affection for Jesus, though often expressed clumsily, was undeniably genuine! Sometimes, like Peter, we miss the point!

6. v. 37. Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

There are times when we are impatient and avowed as Peter does, here and say I will lay down my life for you. In our inner weakness, as Peter, it's genuine but incredibly genuine! Peter was ready to die for Jesus. Unfortunately, he was not ready, at this point, to live for Him. He was ready to attack single-handed a cohort of soldiers with his sword (18:10), but he was not willing to wash the feet of his brothers as Jesus had just done (13:4). We see Peter develops into a friend, disciple and later as an apostle. Yes, his character traits are likely as a child of God...impulsive, tenderhearted, and affectionate, sometimes apprehensive to deeper truths, self-sacrificing but inclined to self-seeking at times, immovable in his convictions. Yet he was a witness and a miracle worker. He miserably failed the Lord in an hour of crisis, being the only disciple to deny our Lord, still later he became the greatest and deemed himself unworthy to die in exactly the same way as his Lord had, and so begged his crucifers to crucify him upside down! So, we have lessons learned from Peter!

7. **v. 38. Then Jesus answered, “will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!”**

Praise the Lord, Jesus with love answered Peter! His answer, “before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times” which reveals his estimate of Peter. The Cockcrow was reckoned the watch between twelve midnight and three o’clock in the morning when dawn is about on the horizon. At these words, knowing Peter, he was stunned and said nothing. He is not mentioned again until John 18:10.

Really? You will lay down your life for me? Most assuredly Peter did deny Jesus! (Mt. 26:31; Mk. 14:26; Lk. 22:31).

III. Conclusion.

Christ more than fulfilled his love. He laid down his own life for others. In this he called his disciples to follow Him; to be ready on all occasions to lay down their lives for each other and for enemies if it would save them from hell (Rom. 5:8-11). This surpasses all religions prescribed by anything so pure and unselfish.

Christ virtually said to them, “You have been ambitious, envious, and at strife for supremacy. This cannot be. **You must love, as I love.** By this shall all men know you to be Christians.” Some disciples are known for their habits, or some creed or rite, but the disciples of Christ were to be known by the love they had for one another (1 Jn. 3:11-18; 4:7-21).