

## **He Loves to the End**

### **John 13:1-6**

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. NKJV

In this chapter we change completely the message. Jesus now steps into the shadows with only His closest disciples. From this point on everything is done in secret. As our passage says Jesus knows that his hour has come, and that he must now depart out of the world. Therefore he begins to prepare his disciples for this departure.

We have the opportunity to see into some of the most personal relationships of Jesus at on this earth. Compared to the earlier part of the book this now moves quite slowly. Whereas what we saw in chapter 1 through 12 took about 3 ½ years, what we have before us will take but a few hours.

John tells us that the events in chapter 13 take place before Passover. This is somewhat confusing when you read the other Gospels but I think that John makes the clearest statements of any gospel writer.

To set the scene, we look at the other Gospels. They tell us that Jesus has arranged to eat the Passover with his disciples and a large upper room. We know from the Gospels and the book of Acts that this is the house John Mark.

Jesus has secretly arranged this so that not even Judas knew where they would be eating the Passover. It is only after the Passover when Judas knows that Jesus will go to the garden of Gethsemane that he has some opportunity to betray Jesus to the Jewish guards.

- I. Jesus knew that his hour had come.
  - A. Continually throughout the Gospel of John he has referred to “His Hour”
    1. In those passages it was always that his hour had not yet come.
    2. But now that hour is upon him.
  - B. Jesus knows that very soon he will leave his disciples in the most shocking way.
  - C. Jesus knows that the faith of the disciples will be tried as never before.
  - D. Jesus knows the great sorrow and confusion of the disciples will face.
  - E. He knows that Judas will betray him.

- F. He knows that the rest of the disciples will forsake him.
- II. He loved his own to the end.
- A. Why should He love us.
    1. “No explanation. When we say this, however, we must immediately recognize that love itself is unexplainable. For if we go on to ask, but why did God love us? Why does Jesus love us? There is just no answer to be given.” James Montgomery Boice volume 4 the Gospel of John
    2. Dt 7:7 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
  - B. In his final hours His thoughts were more on His disciples than on Himself.
    1. These very special promises, as we’ve seen are for his own and not for the world in general.
  - C. His love is seen in these final lessons that he gives to the disciples.
    1. Although Jesus anticipates the suffering of the scourging on the cross yet he takes these last few hours to strengthen the disciples.
  - D. The lesson of humility.
  - E. The lesson of service.
  - F. Lesson of love.
    1. Even with Judas, his actions are such that none of the disciples suspect who will betray.
    2. As a sign of highest favor, during the supper, he gives Judas the sop, the choice morsel.
    3. Even later when Judas brings the soldiers Jesus does not resist Judas’ embrace.
    4. His concern is not any less today for he still cares for the weak in spirit. He rejoices to find the that one lost sheep that has wandered away. He wants so to get into our heart.
  - G. As they had argued about who would be greatest in the kingdom, and strutted their pride, Jesus would wash their feet. Jesus did not want to church spoiled by pride. He wanted them to love one another as he had loved them. And he put that into actions for them to see. He wanted them to put their love in the action toward one

another.

- H. John 13:34-35 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." NKJV
- I. John 15:9-10, 13-15 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. NKJV
- J. 1 John 4:7-11 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 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. 10 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. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. NKJV
- K. How far we have come from that today. Many churches are divided by strife and division. Many times the old against the young or the rich against the poor. We have forgotten the example of our Savior who although he was God in human flesh humbled himself enough to take water and a towel and wash the disciples feet.

The church was meant to minister to each other. The stronger helping the weaker, the spiritual edifying the new Christian. But were all too busy for that now. It's the pastor's job anyway.

Sometimes it's hard for us to love others as we should. This world is a hard and cruel place and we learn early not to leave ourselves exposed. We learned that if we don't put ourselves out there we cannot be injured. We become like the proverbial turtle, whenever something comes along threatening we draw in our head our hands.

At times when we ought to be looking around at our hands up to be reaching out we so do not want to be taken advantage of again. So we withdraw, the towel and the water set in the corner but we will not take it up. And many people whose greatest need in life is to experience the love of Jesus Christ travel on.

It is only when we sense the love of God for us that our lives become truly meaningful.