

## **John Chapter 13 (DDC) – June 29, 2008**

- Well as we move through the Gospel of John, at Chapter 13 we are a little over half way through the book.
- And to recap... Chapters 1 & 2 really introduce Jesus as God
- And Chapters 3 through 11 contain specific miracles and the teachings from Jesus' public ministry that really are aimed at two things (among many others):
  - Showing us our state apart from God
    - Humanity separated themselves from God through sin
    - Essentially we drove (and continue to drive) a wedge between us and God
    - And the teachings graphically show us our state apart from God
    - We're without birth
    - We're hungry
    - We're blind
    - We're are dead... we have no life... apart from God

(pause)

- So it describes to us our state
- Well secondly the miracles and teachings in Chapters 3 through 11 also teach us that Jesus is the promised messiah ... but more than Jesus was existent before time... before creation...
- And it is through him ALL things were made
- and that in him coming to us.... he is literally God amongst us.
- And it is through Him that we are given life, given sight, and given fulfillment,
- Through him... our spiritual birth occurs and we are given true life

(pause)

- As we've talked about... John covers Jesus' public ministry, which is a little over 3 years in the first 11 Chapters of his Gospel.
- Last week we covered Chapter 12.
- Chapter 12 begins what we've termed the passion week.
- It's that last week before Jesus is nailed to the cross and dies.
- It is an incredibly important time in the life of Jesus.
- And thus John devotes about a quarter of his Gospel to this last week... Chapters 12-17

(pause)

- Well... Chapter 12 (which we covered last week) took place about 5 days prior to Chapter 13.

(pause)

- And in Ch 12... Jesus, on his way to Jerusalem... on the journey which He knew would end in his death.... He stopped as he did many times at the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus

- Well during the meal Mary becomes overwhelmed with the presence of Jesus... and anoints Jesus' feet with that costly spikenard perfume.

(pause)

- Now I make a careful point to say, anointed and not just washed.
- Jesus' feet were not washed... but anointed.
- As we will talk about in a bit... Jesus had no need for cleansing... he was without sin
- But Mary (through that expression of love for Jesus) anointed him... in preparation for his death.

(pause)

- Now... in Chapter 13... 5 days later... Jesus washes the dirt off the disciples feet in contrast with the teaching he is about to present...
- And this teaching (that spans Ch.13-17) is probably one of my favorite.
- It's called the upper room discourse.

(pause)

- Well much of this discourse centers around love
- And as we will see before Jesus teaches on love... he gives us a tangible example of love
- He doesn't just tell us "hey you need to love each other and serve each other"... He gives us an example... he gives us a model of what love looks like
- I love that about Jesus. If you are like me... you get tired of people tell me (or us) what to do... how to do it... "this is what it looks like to be a good Christian"... etc.
- But Jesus... He shows us.... He makes it real to us by touching us
- like the disciples he touches us personally...
- then he teaches us.
- He touched his disciples (he served them... he loved them... he washed their feet)... then he teaches them.

(pause)

- I think that is really important to remember as we minister to people.....
- We... with Christ as our example... need to touch people before we try to teach people.

(pause)

- Well the text begins in Verse 1... and as I said before we are about 5 days after Chapter 12 and just a couple days before Jesus' death.
- So starting in Verse 1

**Joh 13:1** It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.<sup>[1]</sup>

- It's interesting as we look at the other gospels they fill in some of the details surrounding this events in chapter 13
- And in Luke it tells us that as the disciples make their way to the upper room where this last supper begins... it says that the disciples were arguing about which one of them was the greatest... kind of ironic
- And as they are sitting and bickering about this...
- I have no doubt Jesus sat back and watched quietly at those imperfect men
- Men which He had been pouring into for 3 years
- Men that he had given the keys to the kingdom
- Men that he loved
- And as he sat back and watch each one of them... surly it had to be a bit discouraging.
- And I have to believe that Satan was whispering in his ear:
  - "This is the result of your ministry??"
  - "Three years... and look at these guys"
  - "They are no better than when they began following you"
  - "What a failure you are Jesus"

(long pause)

- Well... Jesus spoke of them previously as friends...
- And now when I'm sure it would feel the most frustrating.... The most irritating ... he speaks of them as his own...
  - They are mine
  - It speaks literally of ownership.
  - They are mine

(pause)

- And it goes on to say:

**Joh 13:1** ... Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.<sup>[1]</sup>

- The King James translates it... "He loved them unto the end."
- He loved them unto the completion;

(pause)

- Telos is the Greek word, and it means literally to the completion... to the finish.
- And I would infer that means unto their redemption.

(pause)

- He loved them (and us) so much... so completely... that He was willing to complete our redemption... which cost Him His life.
- He loved them to the end...
- He showed them the full extent of His love.

(pause)

- And here Jesus sees them... not only in their present vulnerabilities...
- but Jesus also sees them in their future total victory... because of what Jesus will do  
(pause)

- With one exception  
(pause)

- It goes on to say

**Joh 13:2a** The evening meal was being served...

- So the Passover meal had been served.
- Presumably they had just gone through the traditional Jewish Passover
- And it says:

**Joh 13:2b** ...the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.

- So Judas had already begun betraying Jesus.
- But it says:

**Joh 13:3** Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

- In light of what's about to happen... we need to remember who we are talking about.
- It says "Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power"
- All things are under Jesus' power.
- As we continue to read... remember we are talking about GOD in the flesh.
- Not just a teacher... this is God come in the flesh  
(pause)

- And it also says "that he had come from God and was returning to God"  
(pause)

- Jesus knew his time was short.
- And what do we do... when our time his short?
- We begin to focus on what is important
- We say the things that maybe we would have held back if it were just another day.
- But we feel that urgency to say what needs to be said

*--STORY ABOUT GOING OUT OF TOWN*

- Jesus knows that things are about to change.
- He realizes what no body else in the room realizes.

- And you can almost sense the sentimentality that he is feeling as his time draws closer and closer

(pause)

- So John prefaces what Jesus is about to do here with that statement in order for it to be crystal clear to us the mood and the importance of what's about to transpire.
- Lets read what he does

**Joh 13:4** so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

**Joh 13:5** After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

- So Jesus knowing that this is the last time He'll be sharing a meal with the disciples, takes a towel and washes the feet of his disciples.

(pause)

- And I'm sure it was silent in that room.
- As they pondered... what do I do?
- As the shame (no doubt) of their petty argument over who is the greatest, began to set in
- And as I was considering this... I kept wondering what the expression were on their faces

(pause)

- Now as you peel this back... really there are 6 things that occur here.
  1. he got up from the meal,
  2. took off his outer clothing,
  3. wrapped a towel around his waist.
  4. poured water into a basin
  5. washed his disciples' feet,
  6. dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

- Six things.

(pause)

- As I said before... this is a tangible example of love
- But more than that it is really a parable of what Jesus Christ has done for all of us.

(pause)

- In his last hours Jesus is showing us (as it says in Verse 1) the full extent of his love!!
- Let's look at these 6 actions.

(pause)

- First it says he got up from the meal,
  - Now at the beginning of John it says Jesus was existent before the creation of the universe.

- And later we learn that Jesus is the only begotten son of the Father
- Being begotten of God... Jesus is God (like man is begotten of man)
- Jesus is begotten of God and thus he is God

(pause)

- And it says he was existent before even time it's self
- In perfect eternal divine communion and glory with the father
- A glory... and richness and divinity... that we can never understand with our finite minds.
- In fact people speculate that the holy spirit... is really the relationship between the father... and the son
- Their relationship is so rich... so full.... that their relationship is a person in its self.

(pause)

- It's beyond what we can fully understand.
- And I might add that this is not generally how people view God apart from man.
  - As with many things... people kind of take on this inadequate view.
  - People generally view God as bored.... and having nothing to do apart from man.
  - I think that is totally incorrect.

(pause)

- But it was from that eternal feast... that eternal communion between the Father and the Son... that Jesus left in order to become a man.
- He got up from that feast... in order to come and reveal himself (but more importantly his heart) to His creation
- So he got up from the meal and next.

- Jesus took off his outer clothing,

(pause)

- And so the begotten son (Jesus) in all of his Godly glory is sitting at this table... communing in spirit and in truth eternally with the Father
- But, in order that we might understand God... he freely gives up his glory... and he comes too us.
- He sheds his glory.
- What does that mean? What does that look like?

(pause)

- It says in Isaiah that the Messiah will be no one of regard... meaning he wasn't someone you would look at and immediately assume he is God just based on visual appearance.
- If you think about that... to go from being God in all his glory... to being a man would require a bit of a transformation.

- And in Philippians 2 it talks about Jesus emptying himself of his glory and becoming a man
- Literally that shedding of the glory that is due God
- The theological term is called the Kenosis
  - Which comes from the word Keno – which is the word used in Philippians 2 – and speaks of him emptying himself
- He willingly shed his Glory in order to become a man
- The way I like to think of the Kenosis is like this...

*Handsome Man to ant example....*

- He had to give up that glory of being a Man in order to become an Ant
  - So... Jesus is in eternal communion and harmony with the father
  - And he gets up from that eternal feast.
  - Then he sheds his out clothing... representing him shedding his glory to become a man.
  - And next he
    - Wraps a towel around his waist.
      - And this representing him wrapping himself in flesh
      - Literally him taking on the form of a man.
- (pause)
- Now it was prophesied in the Old Testament that the Messiah would come in the form of a servant.... and later he would come in his glory ... but first He comes as a servant
  - And in that day wrapping a towel around your waste immediately identified you as a servant
  - And Jesus... wrapped himself in human flesh... and came as a servant
  - Stop for a second and think about that...
- (pause)
- God came to us... to show us his heart for us
  - And in all the forms God could have come... he came as a servant
  - That completely blows my mind.
  - He must love us tremendously...
- (pause)
- So after he wraps himself in human flesh... represented by wrapping the towel around his waste he then...
- He pours water into a basin
    - Water... in the scriptures is synonymous with the word

- And so Jesus wrapping himself in flesh... wrapping himself in humanity...
  - pours out his word for us.
  - He gives us His words... His examples... His... parables... His teachings
- (pause)
- And then it says....
- He washed his disciples' feet,
    - He took the water that he had just poured out and he washed his disciples feet
- (pause)
- This is a picture of sanctification
  - This is not the water of baptism (which signifies the new birth)
  - The disciples (save one) were already believers
  - But as we live in this world... our feet get dirty... we pick up defilement
  - And so Jesus... uses the water of his word... to sanctify us
- (pause)
- He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
    - I think this is really important
    - He didn't just leave them "all wet" so to speak
    - But he finishes the job
    - And interestingly enough... it says here he used the towel to complete the job
    - He used his human body... to complete the job
    - It is through the sacrifice of his body... that we can be made clean... that we can come back into communion with the Father
- (pause)
- So Jesus completes these 6 specific acts... as a parable in order to teach us... the ultimate act of love.
  - God becoming a man... and as a man give himself up...
  - And I think it's important to look at the depth of what Jesus has done for us... in light of him washing the disciples feet.
  - The reason I think that is because... sometime when we read the bible, we read a story like this... and we say "man that's great that Jesus would do that for his disciples"
  - The teacher taking on a role of a servant... and washing his disciples feet.
  - But it's easy to not take it to the next step.
  - God gave up his glory
  - Came to his creation
  - Humbled himself to form of a servant
  - And he is here washing the feet of the disciples
  - So why make such a big deal about this?
- (pause)

- Well if we can gain that perspective
  - If we can just catch a little glimpse of what that actually means...
  - We can begin to understand our calling as Christians
- (pause)

- We are not called to serve each other in as much as it is convenient ... or easy
  - No
  - We are called to empty ourselves
  - We are called to humble ourselves to the role of a servant
  - And we are called to serve each other
- (pause)

- And God didn't just order us to do this...
  - He did it himself.
  - He did it in such an infinitely more impressive manner than we can ever ever ever understand.
  - God became a man... and God died for us
- (pause)

- So... as we struggle to do this... let's remember what he's done for us
- (long pause)

- Now we will see Peter notices that from a human perspective it feels a bit incongruous having Jesus wash his feet...
- It goes on to say...

**Joh 13:6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

- And I believe the emphasis is on the pronouns. "Lord, are **you** going to wash **my** feet?"
  - Peter realized from a human perspective how completely and totally incongruent this was... that the Lord (that God) should wash our feet.
  - This is similar to when John the Baptist was approached by Jesus for baptism.
  - And John said, "NO... you should be baptizing me."
  - He recognized who Jesus is... and felt inadequate to baptize him...
  - But what was Jesus' response?
  - Allow it to be.
- (pause)

- So, Peter was sort of alarmed by his master taking on such a lowly task... and so he questions it
- He says... "Lord, are **you** going to wash **my** feet?"
- And... it goes on to say...

**Joh 13:7** Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

- So Peter watches Jesus take on the task of a servant... and he questions Jesus.
- Now notice Jesus' response... he says "you do not realize now what I am doing..... but **later** you will understand."

(pause)

- This is so true.
- God does not explain his reasoning's fully and completely

(pause)

- As Jon Courson often states... He requires obedience before there is revelation
- So we say "show me what you are doing then I will obey"
- But God says "obey me... and then I will show you what I'm doing."

(pause)

- Still we get stalled out.... Because we want to see the whole picture...
- And the problem is not that we want to understand...
- The problem is we demand to see why we are being asked to do this... Right Now

(pause)

- I think it's interesting God didn't say... "well Peter... you see this is a great model of the Kanosis and the incarnation"... "there is deep theological meaning behind what I am doing here"... let me explain it fully

(pause)

- No... he just says " your not going to understand what I'm doing" ... Later you will"

(pause)

- And if you read 1 Peter (specifically in Chapter 5) you will see that he did come to understand.... Exactly what Jesus was doing here.
- But Peter didn't understand why at this moment...

(pause)

- As I was putting this stuff together... I began to ask myself... is there any area of obedience where I'm not obeying...
- Where I'm refusing to obey... until I understand what the result will be?

(pause)

- And I got to thinking the ironic thing is... if I don't obey... I will NEVER understand what the result will be.
- Because revelation follows obedience.

(pause)

- Well Peter didn't understand why Jesus was doing this.
- So first he questions Jesus.
- And second he attempts to correct Jesus.
- It goes on...

**Joh 13:8a** "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

(pause)

**Joh 13:8b** ...Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

- Unless I wash you... you have no part with me
  - Unless you allows this... we won't be close... we won't be in communion
  - And it's interesting it says.. YOU have no part with me
  - It is because through our sin... our dirtiness... that we separate ourselves from Him
- (pause)

**Joh 13:9** "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

- As I read the Gospels... I get a kick out of Peter
- He's always so gung-hoe on whatever he is doing.
- First he questions... then he tries to correct Jesus' behavior
- Then Jesus responds... and he goes from one end of the spectrum all the way to the other.
- "No Jesus... you can't wash my feet..." Then Jesus says "either that or you will have no part with me"
- And Peter says... "well I don't want that!!!"...."So wash everything... my hands and my head as well!!!"

**Joh 13:10** Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."

- Now, the washing of the feet was a common practice in the Roman baths.
- After they had left the bath and returned to the dressing room, they would pick up dirt on their feet as they were walking through the court yard.
- Such that they would always wash their feet when they got back to the dressing room before they got dressed and left.
- They were totally clean... but they did pick up some dirt or defilement walking from the bath to the dressing room.

(pause)

- Likewise.... As we talked about before... we pick up defilement... we become dirty... simply because we walk through a dirty world
- And sometimes we pick up dirt from very purposeful actions
- Other times it is very much less purposeful

- Never the less... we become dirty
- And the dirt and defilement in our lives... (though we are clean) hinders our relationship with Christ  
(pause)
- And so Jesus says we don't need to take a bath in order to become clean because we are already clean
- Rather... we just need to wash our feet.  
(pause)
- So what are we talking about here?  
(pause)
- I think there are two concepts here.
- The bath is representative of baptism which signifies salvation
- It's that new birth... it's us becoming clean before God  
(pause)
- The need to clean our feet which become dirty... represents confession
- The act of confession  
(pause)
- It says... if we confess our sins he is faithful to forgive us... and CLEANSE us from all unrighteousness.
- Confession
- If we confess our sins though his word he has told us... He is faithful to cleanse us.  
(pause)
- Well... it also says one of them was not clean.
- It goes on to say:

**Joh 13:11** For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

**Joh 13:12a** When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place.

- It is important that this is pointed out.
- The story does not just end with Jesus drying our feet.
- Rather it is pointed out that... when he is done completing his work...
- He puts his cloths back on... (he regains his glory)
- And he returns to his place.... He returns to his place with the father.  
(pause)
- This is specifically pointed out... and it completes the parable.  
(pause)

- Then Jesus says:

**Joh 13:12b** ... "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.

- The obvious answer is... NO
- But as Jesus did many other times... he asks a question to get his disciples thinking. (pause)
- And Jesus goes on...

**Joh 13:13** "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.

**Joh 13:14** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

**Joh 13:15** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

**Joh 13:16** I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

**Joh 13:17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

- Notice He didn't say... you will be blessed if you...
  - value these things
  - read about these things
  - care about these things...
- NO.. he says "you will be blessed if you **do** them!!"
- The blessing comes through action.
- It says in James:

**Jas 1:22** Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

- And Jesus says we will be blessed... in serving each other.
- So... do you want love, joy, peace, patients... all the fruits of the spirit? (pause)
- Then serve each other.

**Joh 13:18** "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.'<sup>[2]</sup>

**Joh 13:19** "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He.

- In reading this in the English... it is easy to miss that he is using the Hebrew name for God here.
- He is using the name that the burning bush gave.
- I am... that I am..... I am GOD (pause)

- So he is telling us (as God) that he knew of his betrayal before it occurred... in fact he created everything we see... the universe and everything in it...
  - Knowing that this betrayal would eventually occur.
  - So he is saying two things here.
    - First he's reiterating that He (Jesus) is God...
    - And second that He knew this is coming.
  - And he tells us that such that we aren't deceived into thinking that these events happened and Jesus was duped into being crucified.
  - It was deliberate.
  - And time and again we are reminded of that.
  - Jesus intended to die. And he won't allow Satan to take that fact away.
  - Jesus knew this betray was to come... and he used it for his eventual glorification.
- (pause)

- Well Jesus goes on...

**Joh 13:20** I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

- Again he teaches what he has been teaching through his 3 year ministry.
  - The provision by which we can come back to God.
  - If you accept Jesus... you are accepting the father.
- (pause)

- Well...

**Joh 13:21a** After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit...

- Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray Him.
  - But... in the midst of his teaching... the reality of that... it says troubles Jesus' spirit
- (pause)

- I believe... Jesus was troubled... for Judas' sake.
- Jesus was troubled that Judas (after being with Jesus so long) would do this...
- And so,

**Joh 13:21** ... Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me."

**Joh 13:22** His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.

(pause)

**Joh 13:23** One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.

- John is talking about himself here...
- (pause)

- So the picture here is... John is next to Jesus (as I'm sure he often was)...
- And he is kind of leaning on him...
- The king James says he is resting his head on Jesus' bosom... (on his chest)
- So you can kind of picture John as leaning on Jesus... enjoying his presences  
(pause)
- And it says:

**Joh 13:24** Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."

- So I kind of picture this as John is reclining next to Jesus...
- And Peter is perhaps next to John.
- And Peter... hearing that one of the disciples was going to betray Jesus... becomes somewhat alarmed.....as you would imagine someone with Peters personality would get
- And so he motions to the John who is literally next to Jesus.
- And I picture it as Peter kind of whispering and motioning to John ... "ask him which one he means"
- So:

**Joh 13:25** Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

**Joh 13:26** Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." ...

- I don't think that was said to everyone... Just John... and perhaps Peter overheard Jesus' answer.

**Joh 13:26b** ... Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon.

- Now dipping a piece of bread and giving it to a guest... in that culture... was much like what we view as a toast.
- When we think of toasting someone... it is a gesture of friendship
- So why would Jesus... essentially toast Judas here?  
(pause)
- While I was preparing for tonight... I thought about this quite a bit.
- And I came across Chuck Smith's view of this particular section... and after some thought... as well as some research.... I tend to align with his view.
- He believes that Jesus even at this point, was saying, "Judas, if you want out, you can get out. You don't have to go through with it, even though you've already been into the high priest and made a deal and have bargained with them; I would still like to be your friend."
- God's will... can be fulfilled some other way. I still want to be your friend.
- You still have a chance.

- To the end Jesus said that.
- But...

**Joh 13:27** As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

- It's interesting that Judas took the bread.
  - He accepted the toast.
  - And perhaps it was pride...
  - Or something else...But it says Satan entered him.
- (pause)

- I would note that the Bible is clear... that Satan does not have the power to enter us... except that we give him that power.
  - And despite Jesus' repeated attempts to draw Judas... it says essentially... Judas allowed Satan to enter him.
- (pause)

And Jesus... with no doubt sadness in his voice says:...

**Joh 13:28** "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.

**Joh 13:29** Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor.

**Joh 13:30** As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

**Joh 13:31** When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him.

**Joh 13:32** If God is glorified in him,<sup>[3]</sup> God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

- If you recall... as we have been walking through John... continually we have heard Jesus make the statement .... "My time has not yet come"
- Well now... He says his some is come...
- This is the end.
- His time to be glorified has come.
- And as we will see... His time to be glorified... was not something that one would naturally expect...
- But strangely enough... we will see Jesus is glorified through his death.
- He is glorified by being crucified.
  - If that is true for Jesus... what does that say about us I wonder??

(pause)

- Well Jesus then addresses his Disciples in Verse 33.
- He addressee them as:

**Joh 13:33a** "My children...

- Now this is a very tender term.

- The Greek word is Teknion and this is the only time it is recorded that Jesus uses this word.
  - Interestingly enough, John uses it several times in his other epistles.
- It is a very tender term and you can almost sense the mood here.
- The end is near.
- And I'm sure there was a sentimental and probably emotional vibe in the air...
- As Jesus time grew closer and closer that sense of importance... and urgency was permeating the conversation
- And Jesus turns to his Disciples... and says...

**Joh 13:33** "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.

- Even you.... Even my beloved Children cannot go where I am going at this time
- But... Jesus says... in the mean time

**Joh 13:34** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

**Joh 13:35** By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- Jesus gives a new commandment here.
- And like Jesus does... he gives us an all inclusive standard... he takes it to the next level.
- All the other commandments are taken care of... if we just follow this commandment.
- And I believe that he Jesus gave us this example of love... (washing the disciples feet)... before he give us this new commandment in order to show us what love looks like.
- He is the picture of love.
- And like him we must become servants of each other.
- It's interesting... the word minister... actually literally means a servant.

(pause)

- Now I have to just note... I think this is where a lot of churches go wrong.
- They look at church a lot like a business
- And naturally the minister is the CEO
- Such that the minister begins to take on this executive type position

(pause)

- But Jesus says... the way the world will know that you are my disciples... is if you love one another... if you serve one another

(pause)

- That's how people know that we are God's disciples... in that we love each other.

**Joh 13:36** Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

- So now Jesus clarifies his earlier statement.
- Where He goes we cannot follow... but later... because of his sacrifices... we may follow
- But...

**Joh 13:37** Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

- And I believe Peter meant what he said here.
- He would have laid down his life for Jesus.
- Had soldiers stormed in at that very moment... I believe Peter would have given his life to defend Jesus.

(pause)

It goes on to say:

**Joh 13:38a** Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me?..."

- I suspect there was a bit of a pause here.
- Peter probably feeling like his statement would set him apart...
- And Jesus' question probably catching him off guard

(pause)

- Then Jesus says:

**Joh 13:38b** ...I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

(pause)

- In just a little while... about twenty-four hours,
- Jesus will be saying to Peter in the garden of Gethsemane, "Peter, keep watch and pray with Me that I don't fall into temptation."
- A simple task.
- And when Jesus comes back,... He finds him asleep.
- Again Jesus asks keep watch and pray with me...
- And later he comes back and finds Peter asleep again.

(pause)

- Well Peter was quick to die for Jesus.
- But... sometimes giving God your life is more difficult than giving him your death

(pause)

- Jesus asks him simply to pray... and he falls asleep
- How often I have done that....

--*STORY ABOUT ME DRIVING HOME & offering God everything.....*

- Peter was quick to say... I will die for you...
- And you can almost see Peter looking at Jesus... waiting for those words of approval.
- But I can just see Jesus looking down...
- And asking... Will you lay down your life for me...

(pause)

- And I would imagine Peter's face was frozen.
- And then Jesus says... no.... Peter. You will fail.
- Before the rooster crows... you will disown me 3 times.

(pause)

- So this chapter ends with Christ telling Peter essentially... you will fail.
- You may say you're going to die for me....
- You may say that you're going to follow me to the ends of the earth...
- You may say that....
- But you **WILL FAIL!!!**

(pause)

- And that is why Chapter 14 is so incredible.
- Ill just read the first verse... to uplift this situation a bit.
- How does Jesus respond to the fact that Peter **WILL** fail??
- How does Jesus respond to the fact that we will fail??

- He says....

- Joh 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God[1] ; trust also in me.

- I love that. Do not let your hearts be troubled... **TRUST IN GOD.**

- It's not about us... it's about him.
- Every good thing we do
- Every good thing that happens to us... is because of grace.
- We don't deserve any of it.
- Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God.

- We'll pick up in Chapter 14 next week.

(pause)

- Lets Pray.

### **Closing Prayer**