

# Love Like Jesus (John 13:17-38)

- I. Jesus' leadership development crash course
  - A. Pattern of ministry for three years:
    - 1. Pray... go into various places (homes, places of worship, public spaces)... proclaim the kingdom of God... demonstrate the kingdom through healing, compassion, provision, and casting out demons... gather those who followed him for teaching and care... go elsewhere and repeat.
  - B. His final week of life, he focuses on leadership development of his core Disciples
    - 1. They've SEEN him for three years modeling, now they experience some training and real talk
    - 2. He teaches them on important issues like service (when DW preached), love (today), belief, persecution, prayer, the Holy Spirit, etc.
- II. John 13:17-38
  - A. *[17] If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. [18] I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' [19] I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.*
    - 1. Jesus expected betrayal, predicted betrayal, said it would verify his claim
    - 2. Just because people don't like you doesn't mean you are wrong. Just because you're right doesn't mean people will like you.
    - 3. You need to determine UP FRONT that you are going to stand for the truth of Jesus (w/ compassion and kindness) despite opposition.
  - B. *[20] Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."*
    - 1. When the betrayer rejects Jesus, he is rejecting the one who sent him
      - a) Therefore, Jesus can rest. "Shoot the messenger" so to say
    - 2. Jesus sends me too. If you reject Jesus in me (his words, his Spirit, his works), you are actually not rejecting me, you are rejecting Jesus and, therefore the Father.
      - a) This is why I can be honest about what the Bible teaches and if you don't like it, I can sleep well at night (assuming I don't just say it like a jerk and, therefore, I am the one that is in sin)
    - 3. Betrayal is going to happen. Rejection b/c of Jesus is going to happen.
  - C. *[21] After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."*
    - 1. Just b/c you can expect that hurts will come doesn't mean it isn't painful.
    - 2. I am not suggesting a "grit your teeth and bare it; rub some dirt in it; be a man" mentality.
    - 3. Betrayal hurts. If you don't feel the pain, it's not because you are tough, it's because you are calloused. And that's not an admirable quality.

4. Don't dismiss someone's pain by diminishing it. It is real to them.

*D. [22] The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. [23] One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, [24] so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. [25] So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" [26] Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. [27] Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." [28] Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. [29] Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. [30] So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.*

1. Think about this: even w/ this obvious exchange, they still had no idea that betrayal was coming or by whose hand it would come.
2. Betrayal often comes from unexpected places and people
3. It may even come from a place of good intention!
  - a) Explain about Judas
4. When I look at my life in ministry, wounds often come from the least expected places, and not necessarily b/c someone (myself or someone else) is being mean - often it is us not yet being perfect that causes pain!

*E. [31] When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. [32] If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.*

1. Despite the persecution, Jesus rests in this - God will be glorified because of the Son. The Son will be glorified by the Father.
2. What is Jesus about to go through?
  - a) Sweating blood, arrest, betrayal by all his friends, beaten, flogged, mocked, spat upon, pierced w/ thorns, probably partially stripped naked, nailed to a cross, forced to be mocked, incontinent as his body gave out. Would you describe that as glorious?
  - b) I would describe it as shame, but Jesus describes it as glory
3. Juxtapose Jesus' use of the word glory against the shame he will feel.
4. Here's the point: **The world defines shame and glory very differently than God does.**
5. Someone gets beat up for their faith. We say, "What a shame!" Jesus says, "What glory!" Your co-workers mock you, "Isn't that a shame!" Jesus says, "Blessed are you!" Someone gives up their home, their reputation, their salary, their comfort we say, "What a shame to let that all go to waste." Jesus says, "You will receive 100 fold more in this life and the next!"

**6. In this life you may experience deep shame in the eyes of the world because of your obedience to Jesus, but it is only in the eyes of the world. To the Father, it is GLORIOUS!**

F. [33] *Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'*

1. Jesus is leaving. You can't go with him... yet. What do we do in the meantime? What do we do when we are betrayed? What do we do when we are happy? What do we do in good times and in difficult times?

G. [34] *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*"

**1. Love one another, just like Jesus.**

2. The love Jesus has is a testimony to the world. When we love like Jesus, it is a testimony to the world.
3. What does this love look like? We will come back to that at the end.

H. [36] *Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." [37] Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." [38] Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.*

1. Apparently there is a second point of betrayal - this time not from an enemy, but from a friend
2. Peter is well-intentioned. Peter loves Jesus. Peter would die for Jesus. Peter means well. Peter is weak. Peter isn't perfect. Peter will falter.
3. Sometimes betrayal comes from friends.

**4. Friends will hurt you because the flesh is weak.**

5. We are being perfected, but we aren't full perfect yet (sanctification)
6. How do we respond when you are hurt, betrayed, stabbed in the back, wounded?
  - a) What is your normal response?
7. What does Jesus say to do? **Love one another, just like Jesus.**

III. So, love like Jesus. How did Jesus love?

A. **Jesus loves us to the end.** *John 13:1, Now before the Feast of the Passover, 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.*

Jesus goes all the way. He doesn't lose steam. He doesn't give up. He perseveres.

B. **Jesus loves with a costly love.** *John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* Jesus didn't look at the cost and say, "Eh, too expensive" The character of his love compelled him.

C. **Jesus loves us with parental kindness.** Little children... Imagine the perfect parent. Only raises voice when needed. Only makes rules that need to be made.

Perfectly patient. Perfectly controlled. Every word is corrective, not punitive. He wants our growth, our development.

- D. **Jesus loves with an obvious love.** He said the world would know by his love and by our love. Is your love visible? Is your love vocal? Jesus' love was both - word and deed.
- E. **Jesus loves us with commitment.** He knew that Peter would betray him, yet still he calls him his rock and uses him as a foundational pillar in the movement of the gospel. Is your love fickle, fair-weather, or is it no matter what?
- F. **Jesus loves us with an unfathomable love.** Paul, *"[I pray that you] may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:18–19).*

- 1. What kind of love needs STRENGTH to understand?!

- G. Jesus says, "Love like that."

- 1. How? You can't unless you first know his love. *"We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)*

- H. *1 John 4:7–12, [7] Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. [8] Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. [9] In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. [10] In this is love, not that we have 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. [12] No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

- 1. When we love like Jesus, we have the opportunity (as the body) to show them God. Our love can be a visual image of the invisible God.

- 2. That is mindblowing!

- IV. Action step? Obviously, love one another like Jesus. But we are going to pause for a few minutes in silent prayer and ask God three questions. Write these down on your phone or a piece of paper and ask God to answer them for you by his Holy Spirit's prompting.

- A. Who? How? When?**

- B. Maybe it is someone who needs encouragement. Maybe it is someone who needs to experience Jesus. Maybe it is someone who has wounded you, betrayed you. How will you love them?

- C. One final question, **How can you possibly love like that?**

- 1. Unless you are first falling in love with Jesus and experiencing his love for you, you can't. All of this is designed to come from overflow. Are you abiding? If you don't know how, come talk to us and we will show you.

- 2. You can love like Jesus because you are deeply loved by Jesus.**