

**Loving Like Jesus**  
**The Gospel of John: That You May Believe | John 13:31-38**  
Southern Hills Baptist Church  
August 6, 2017

**Introduction:** We are continuing in our study of the “farewell discourse,” where Jesus is teaching His Disciples, preparing them for the turbulent days that were ahead and the ministry that awaited them. As Jesus dismisses Judas to go do his betraying work the tone in the room shifts and Jesus begins to teach truths that would be foundational for the Disciple’s ministry.

### Glory in the Tragic (vs. 31-33)

- **Preparing for the Unexpected:** Jesus sets the stage for His teaching by shaking the Disciples to attention when He tells them that He is leaving.
- **Leaving:** The last thing the Disciples expected was for Jesus to leave. He was coming to establish a kingdom and leaving didn’t align to how they expected He should do that. Jesus is preparing them for the cross.
- **Glory:** Jesus declares that He and the Father will be glorified in what is to come. Jesus is letting the Disciples know that when the shocking occurs it was always a part of God’s redemptive plan (Acts 4:27-28).

**Transition:** Jesus transitions to give a new commandment that will guide the Disciples in the ministry they will have when He is physically gone.

### A New Commandment: Love Others as Jesus has Loved You John 13:34-35

- **What’s New?** How is the command to love others new? We have seen it before (Lev 19:18). Jesus has quoted it (Matt 22:35-40). While the calling is old the standard, the pattern, the model is new. We are no longer to love others as we love ourselves, but to love others as Jesus has loved us.
- **An Unendingly Expansive Topic:** What does it mean to love as Jesus loves? This topic is too big for one lifetime, let alone one sermon. We will, however, touch on 5 characteristics that are key to the love of Jesus.

### Characteristics of Jesus’ Love...

#### 1. Jesus’ Love is Servant-Hearted (John 13:1-20)

- **Foot Washing:** In the moments leading up to this teaching Jesus washed the Disciple’s feet, modeling radical, lowly service.
- **Celebrate:** What beauty! He is above us. He is perfect. He is Creator. He is holy. He is Divine. He is owner. He is King. Yet, despite His unrivaled

status, Jesus bends to His knees and takes the dirty, smelly feet of His broken followers and washes them clean.

- **Application:** Do you look for opportunities to go low in service so that others might be raised high and pointed towards Jesus?

#### 2. Jesus’ Love is Compassionate (Matt 14:13-14)

- **Jesus’ Heart:** Jesus was looking for a private place to mourn the murder of John the Baptist. As He retreats, a searching crowd finds Him. He is overcome with compassion for them and pours into them.
- **He Cares!** You are not just a name on a list to Jesus. He cares about you, your hurts, your needs, etc. How amazing is this? We are specs in the universe, but He deeply loves us!
- **Application:** Do you have your eyes open to the hurts, needs, and wellbeing of others? When you see others suffering or struggling do you walk towards them or away from them?

#### 3. Jesus’ Love is Truthful (John 6)

- **Running Crowds Away:** John 6 gives us one of many examples where Jesus has a crowd and He winds up running them away by plainly speaking the truth. This is done in love that they may know God.
- **Rejoice!** We live in a world where we don’t know who we can trust. “Fake News” is a new phrase that resonates loudly in our culture. We never have to question if we can trust Jesus. He is truth!
- **Application:** Are you faithful with the truth or does it become expendable when it makes situations uncomfortable?

#### 4. Jesus’ Love is Gracious (Luke 15:1-2)

- **The Unlovable:** The rejected and outcast of Jesus’ day were drawn to Him and Jesus welcomed them into conversation, spending time with them and caring for them.
- **Our Hope:** Pictures like this in the Gospels should give us hope because it reveals that Jesus loves those that are hard to love, like you and me!
- **Application:** Do you see some people as beneath you, too far gone, or too hard to love or invest in? Thankfully Jesus chose not to see you that way

#### 5. Jesus’ Love is Self-Sacrificial (John 15:12-13)

- **Greatest Expression:** The greatest expression of Jesus’ love was His sacrifice on the cross. No greater sacrifice was ever made (2 Cor 8:9).
- **Rejoice!** The gods of this world demand that their followers sacrifice for them, our God has sacrificed for us! How amazing! Praise God!
- **Application:** We are often concerned with our rights/entitlements, but Jesus calls us to love others in such a way that we them give up.