

John 2021 #28 (10.31.21) #21089
John 13:21-38
The Counterintuitive Command

I. Background. The night before the crucifixion... 13:1

A. Main theme. God's Love in and through Jesus Christ.

II. Four scenes in this chapter. Setting up the Farewell discourse.

A. He demonstrates God's divine love. 1-20 (we looked last week)

1. Including Judas's feet. **17-20**.
2. This is the primary character of God—sacrificial love.

B. He triggers the satanic betrayal. 21-30

1. Is this loving? Yes. It puts the atonement into play.
2. He even honors and loves Judas. Loving to the end.
3. Jesus sends Judas out. The Lord is in control. Acts 2:23
 - a) Judas had been influenced by Satan all along.
4. Judas never was a believer, though he looked like one. Jn.6:70-71
 - a) *He "walked" with Jesus only in so far as he thought Jesus agreed with him.*

C. He commands the counterintuitive action. 31-35.

1. The crucifixion is the glory of God (!)
 - a) The Father and the Son glorify each other in the Cross.
 - b) Glorify = "Wow!!" to glorify God means to do something in which God gets the glory, people are impressed with God.
2. It is a place where they cannot go.
 - a) He will be separated from them, temporarily.
 - b) They cannot accomplish, even by their own death, what Jesus will accomplish in the atonement on the Cross
3. *But there is something they can do...*
 - a) *Extend Christ's love, in his way, to each other.*
 - b) Serving in love, like the foot washing.

D. He gives a loving rebuke. 36-38. Poor Peter...

1. He hears the words, but does not listen closely.
 - a) He missed the point of the New Commandment.
 - b) All he hears is that he can't physically go with Jesus right now.
2. He means well, but his confidence is actually in himself.
 - a) And he doesn't realize it.
 - b) *Mistaking self-confidence for valiant faith.*
3. He will give his life for Christ (30 years later), *but not until Christ has given His life for Peter.*
 - a) This is the radical difference between human religious devotion and gospel reality. Gospel starts with what God in Christ has done for us. His love for us...
 - b) Holy Spirit life in Christ always rests in grace before it becomes active in service.

E. Why is this Love Command "New" in Christ? Not because it is not found elsewhere. (Liv.19:18; Mk.12:31)

III. The “newness” is in the way the Lord himself does it. “As I have loved you...” 4 thoughts.

A. The profound humility of it. 12-20; 36-38

1. *It is impossible to love in Christ’s way while maintaining the idea that we are better than others, even our enemies. (Lk.22:24)*

a) We cannot love in Christ’s way while achieving the “moral high ground” over others.

2. Jesus washed their feet!! God living in humility!!!

3. Peter did not understand this. . **Matt.26:33**

B. The inevitable risk of it. 18. Ps.41:9; Isa.53. sorrows, grief, rejection.

1. *It is impossible to love in Christ’s way if we refuse to accept sorrow and rejection.*

2. In a fallen world, love is a huge emotional risk. **Quote Lewis**

3. It is impossible to love in God’s way while still

C. The radical grace of it. Matt.5:43-47; Rom.12:14-21

1. *It is utterly counterintuitive. Gracious love cannot be deserved. Rom.11:6*

2. No merit involved whatsoever. Jesus washed Judas’s feet. He could have dismissed Judas earlier, but didn’t.

3. Treating people with love who are who are wrong and who do not love us back. (Rom.12:14-21; Matt.5:43-47)

D. The divine source of it. 1 John 4:7-12

1. Not that we loved Him, but that He loved us and sent his Son...

IV. This humble, risky, gracious, divine love is what God offers to us in Christ, and then instructs us to live in. We do not deserve it.