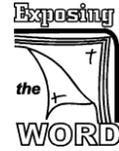




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32- Loves Great Lessons John 13:1

In the life of Christ we have what is unquestionable the greatest display of love possible. Pure love, unconditional love, sacrificial love that has often been said to be encapsulated in the cross. This certainly is the peak of the love that Christ had for mankind but within the context of His life there are many times this love comes shining through like a bright beam of sunlight that somehow escapes the dark clouds of a dangerous storm. I have entitled this loves great lessons.

We need to return to a single verse within the context of our last session. It tells us in *Joh 13:1* ***Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.***

Now it is obvious that Jesus had a great affection and love for His disciples. He loved them to the end, the end here being the end of His earthly life as a man.

Let's take a look at these love lessons. Loves lessons learned from the One of which it is said, "**God is love.**" The One we can look at and say, "that is what love looks like."

I- Love Cannot Be Extinguish by Evil:

Imagine the scene, Jesus has the towel and is washing the feet of the disciples. He comes to Judas, the one He knew would betray Him. What would He do to the one who was going to stab Him in the back? He bowed and washed the feet of Judas and dried them without any hostility what so ever. My, my what love. The evil that Judas had in his heart and that Christ knew about did not extinguish the love Christ had for

him. I am glad because of the fact that I too was an enemies of God.

Rom 5:10 ***For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.***

One great teaching on the subject of loving our enemies came from the lips of the Lord Jesus in *Matthew 5:44-48* ***But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.***

The word here for perfect means complete. He is talking about love and we should strive to love as God which is loving our enemies. When we strive to be like Jesus we must attempt to allow God to not extinguish the love we have for those who are evil to us and around us. By the way Christ died for the meanest man alive today.

II- Love Never Claims Place of Superiority:

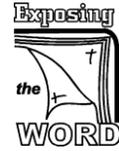
Joh 13:3 ***Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God.*** Based on this we know that Jesus was well aware in His human flesh that all things were in His hands. He knew of His



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divine origin and divine destiny. Still He humbled himself to wash the feet of the disciples. This point us toward the fact that someone who loves does not put people in their place to prove they are superior. It tell us in *Gal 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

1Jn 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

We see this example and lesson of love from Christ and His humility toward others. Notice finally, *Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Notice what *1 Corinthians 13:4-8 HCSB* says about love. *Love is patient; love is kind. Love does not envy; is not boastful; is not conceited; 5 does not act improperly; is not selfish; is not provoked; does not keep a record of wrongs; 6 finds no joy in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends...*

III- Love Crosses all Social Barriers:

You will recall the journey Jesus made to Jerusalem when He met the Samaritan woman at the well. A Jewish man speaking to a Samaritan let alone a woman was social taboo. Remember the woman questioned it, *John 4:9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.* And now we have Jesus crossing social barriers into something that was relegated to the lower and lowest of class in the culture. This shows us that love

crosses all social barriers whether they be race, social status, economic or any other. Christ loved all...

Philip in the book of Acts is an example of the love of souls that the gospel calls us too. He was preaching to the Samaritans when God called him to go speak to a man of Ethiopia. *Acts 8:25-27 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. 26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. 27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch...*

We know that the love of Christ crosses all these social barriers by the fact that eternity will be filled with, *...a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues... Revelation 7:9*

IV- Love is Proactive:

Merrill Tenney says the following:

“The disciples, as they filed into the room, had looked for someone to wash their feet, but no slave was present. Rather than humiliate themselves, they were reclining with unwashed feet. Jesus, after waiting in vain for one of them to take the place of a servant, finally assumed the responsibility Himself. The task, however disagreeable, had to be performed; and love took the initiative.” (p 199)

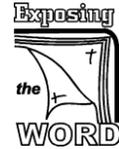
This shows us a love that is proactive. God did not sit back and wait for mankind to find Him. In the garden after the fall His love became proactive and searched for Adam and Eve.



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In fleshing out love within faith James says in **James 2:14-16** *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

Love when it sees something that others needs or a wrong springs into action. It doesn't stand by passive. Love is a call to action. Let me conclude this point with a couple of stories.

There is a story told about Sam Rayburn who was Speaker for the House of Representatives longer than any other man. One of his friends lost a teenage daughter and early the next morning Rayburn knocked on his door. "I just came by to see what I could do to help." The father replied that there was nothing to do. "Well," Rayburn said, "have you had your coffee this morning?" The man replied that they had not taken time for breakfast. While Rayburn was working in the kitchen, the man came in and said, "Mr. Speaker, I thought you were supposed to be having breakfast at the White House this morning." "Well, I was, but I called the President and told him I had a friend who was in trouble and I could not come."

Love when it springs into action will not go unnoticed.

An Armenian nurse had been held captive along with her brother by the Turks. Her brother was slain by a Turkish soldier before her eyes.

Somehow she escaped and later became a nurse in a military hospital.

One day she was stunned to find that the same man who had killed her brother had been captured and brought wounded to the hospital where she worked. Something within her cried out "Vengeance." But a stronger voice called for her to love. She nursed the man back to health. Finally, the recuperating soldier asked her, "Why didn't you let me die?" Her answer was, "I am a follower of Him who said, 'Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you'" (Luk 6:27).

Impressed with her answer, the young soldier replied, "I never heard such words before. Tell me more. I want this kind of religion."

V-Love is the Root Cause of Cleansing:

A couple of question ring in my being. Why did Jesus have to die? I admit that this is really the simple one. He had to die because of my sin. The other question is, Why, did Jesus die? Jesus told Peter, ***If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. John 3:8.***

May I say that Christ had to die for the righteousness of God to be fulfilled but it was love that caused Him to die. Remember what **John 3:16** says, ***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

We are clean because of His shed blood, He shed His blood because of the unfathomable love that God has for mankind. It is indeed the basis of our love for God as evidenced by **1Jn 4:19** ***We love him, because he first loved us.***