

Jesus' Sacrificial Love for You; Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

by Erlo Stegen

Jesus' sacrificial love for us drove Him to die for us, and we can experience this love by turning away from our sins and serving Him.

Scripture: John 13:1

Topics: "Sacrificial Love", "Humility in Service"

Description

Erlo Stegen emphasizes Jesus' sacrificial love for humanity, demonstrated through His willingness to die for our sins and serve His disciples by washing their feet. This act of humility illustrates the depth of His love, which surpasses any earthly affection, and calls us to reflect that love in our relationships with others. Stegen urges believers to let go of past sins and grudges, allowing Jesus to cleanse them so they can serve Him fully. He warns that neglecting this cleansing can lead to spiritual decay and separation from Christ. Ultimately, the sermon challenges us to embody Christ's love and humility in our interactions with one another.

Transcript

John 13:1-15

1) We read in verse one that Jesus "loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."

What drove Jesus to die for us? What moved Him to go to the cross? It was Jesus' sacrificial Love for you and me.

Let us look carefully at this Love.

Jesus knew that His time had come to drink from this cup of death so that we might be saved. Through His bitter and painful death He brought redemption to us.

In our text we read of Jesus' last meeting with His disciples. He revealed His great, faithful, selfless, sacrificial Love to us. He wasn't self-interested - neither did He look to His own affairs. He forgot all about Himself and was thinking just of you and me. He was thinking of our salvation and eternal life.

This was pure unsullied love.

There is no love comparable to Jesus' Love towards us - whether one looks in the heavens above, on the earth or even the depths of the sea.

Proverbially we say that there is no greater love than that of a mother for her child. She has motherly-instinct to protect and love her child. But God says in Is 49:15, "Can a woman forget her nursing child? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you". In our day we find evil women who will even rip their unborn child to pieces by abortion.

Yet God's Love is infinitely greater. He even loved us while we were still His enemies! He sacrificed His whole being so that we might be delivered from sin and death and gain Eternal Life.

There can only be disgust at a person who tramples underfoot such great Love! Nothing is as wicked as a person who rejects Him. That is why Paul wrote in 1Cor 16:22, "if anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed."

2) Jesus took your sin and punishment on Himself so that you can go free and serve Him. He became sin for you so that your life might be holy; that you may part with anything and everything which hinders you in your walk with Him.

Whether you were a drunkard, an immoral person, a blasphemer or scoffer, a servant of mammon or proud, once you have experienced His Love it will be the end of your sin. You cannot drag the sins of the old life into the new.

It is terrible to drag the things of the past week, months or even years with you, like grudges, bitterness and hatred. They will drag you down. Then you cannot have His Love in you. Throw aside anything that displeases Him and serve Him your remaining years.

3) In verses 12-14 Jesus says, "12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

When you wash your brother's feet you do it by humbling yourself and being meek. You take the towel, bow down and wash his feet. When you see a brother sin, you go to help him in a spirit of humbleness and meekness. If he refuses, take another with you and help him in meekness.

However, if you go and speak about his sin, you are slandering. That person will perish because of his sin, but so will you too. So too if you simply ignore his sin and do not help him. You need to help him according to the Word of God and in the attitude God's Word commands. If he still rejects your help, he will perish, but you have delivered your soul.

4) Jesus said to Peter, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in Me. He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean." If Jesus do not wash your feet, you have no part in Him. The disciples were already washed, Jesus said, but now their feet needed to be washed.

Once you are born again, your feet must still be washed regularly by Jesus. As you travel through this world there are things which you hear and see which defile you. And if you refuse Him to wash your feet, you will have no part in Him. If your physical feet are not regularly washed, they will give off a bad odor. So too when you spiritual feet are not washed by Jesus, your life will give off a bad odor wherever you go,

even though you've been born again. And that odor will even reach heaven and you will have no part in Jesus.

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