



LOVE TO THE END.

“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.”

JOHN 13:1

THE UPPER ROOM.

- The public ministry is over.
- This is Jesus' last meal with his friends.
- The next four chapters detail Jesus' final night... the hours leading up to his betrayal and crucifixion.

BIG IDEA:

Jesus loves his own,
and he loves us to the end.

THREE LOVES:

1. Sovereign Love.

John 13:1a - “... **Jesus knew that his hour had come** to depart out of this world to the Father.”

Jesus knew these were his final moments on earth. He was in complete control of this situation. And this is where he chose to be.

Nothing was taking him by surprise. His whole purpose on Earth was drawing to a close. The time that he'd referred to earlier on his different conversations has finally arrived (2:4). It was time for him to go back to the Father, back to his rightful throne in glory. Back to where we'll find him when die-sitting on the throne being worshipped forever.

Jesus always knew this hour would come. He knew exactly how the night would play out and how his time on earth would end. And in his sovereignty, he's chosen to end his night by showing us his immense personal love for his friends.

Illustration: What do you do when you visit home and you know your time to leave is coming fast? Do you eat at a certain restaurant? Go to one specific place?

In Chicago, my family always goes to Portillo's one last time to get some real, Italian Beef. For me, whenever I know I'm in the Midwest for just a short time, I go and visit my Grandparents in Iowa. I make an effort to see them every time I'm in the Midwest. I want to remember them and I know my time with them is getting short, so I spend as much time as I can listening to my Grandpa's stories and sitting with my Grandma.

In Jesus' last moments, a fact he knew well, he chose to spend them with his friends.

2. Personal Love.

John 13:1b - “... **having loved his own** who were in the world...”

Have you ever stopped to consider the way Jesus loves his friends? The author of John sets these two words up next to each other: “his own” and the “world.” The Bible talks about Jesus' love for the world: a general love for the world (“big” and “bad”)... But the Bible here distinguishes his love for his people as totally unique. A special type of love.

Love for women vs. love for my wife.

3. Sacrificial Love.

John 13:1c - “... **he loved them to the end.**” (or with “the full extent of his love.”¹)

- JC's sacrificial death on the cross. (fullest extent)
→ vv. 8-11 - Only those who are washed by the blood are saved.

¹ Footnote 9 in Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to John*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995), 545.

- JC's humble love of serving his followers. (vv. 12-15)

"If their Master and their Sender does lowly actions, then they, the slaves and the sent ones, should not consider menial tasks beneath their dignity."² - **Leon Morris**

AIM FOR THE HEART.

1. To the one who is not a friend of Jesus, receive forgiveness through his sacrificial love.
2. To the one who is feeling the brevity of life, consider your eternity and evaluate your loves.
3. To the one who has been served by Jesus on the cross, serve him with your life.

"To serve Jesus is to take the way of the cross..."³ - Leon Morris

²Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to John*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995), 552.

³Ibid., 554.