

The Word Made Flesh: Loving Your Enemies | John 13:1-30

I. The Turning Point in John's Gospel

A. The Pace of the Gospel Slows

- John 1–11 covers roughly three years of ministry.
- John 12–19 focuses on the final week of Jesus' life.
- John 13–17 takes place in a single evening.
- Nearly half of the Gospel is devoted to Jesus' final hours.

B. The Crescendo of the Story

- Everything in John has been building toward this moment.
- Within 18–24 hours, Jesus will be crucified.
- Jesus knows exactly what is coming.

C. How Jesus Chooses to Spend His Final Hours

- Not with crowds, but with His closest friends.
- Sharing a meal.
- Preparing them for what lies ahead.
- Serving them and praying for them.

D. The Invitation to Live with Eternal Perspective

- What would matter most if you had 24 hours to live?
- Who would you spend your time with?
- What would suddenly lose its importance?
- Jesus models a life centered on relationships, love, and eternal priorities.

II. The Real War: Temptation, Sin, and Spiritual Reality

Key Text: John 13:2

“During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot...to betray him.”

A. Satan's Role in Temptation

- Satan influenced Judas, but did not force him.
- The language is influential, not coercive.
- Satan draws out what is already present in the heart.

“Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.” — James 1:14

B. Two Critical Truths

1. We Are Responsible for Our Sin

- We cannot blame the devil for our choices.
- Sin originates in our own desires.

2. There Is a Real Spiritual War

- There is an unseen cosmic battle taking place.
- This battle affects both the world and our hearts.
- Mature believers must actively engage in spiritual warfare.

C. The Call to Spiritual Vigilance

Believers must:

- Fast
- Pray
- Remain grounded in Scripture
- Stay rooted in gospel-centered community
- Live with awareness of both spiritual and earthly realities

III. Foot Washing: A Picture of Salvation and Sanctification

Key Text: John 13:4–10

A. The Humility of Christ

- Jesus lays aside His garments.
- He takes the role of a servant.
- He washes the disciples' feet.

This fulfills the pattern described in Philippians 2:

- He existed in the form of God
- Yet humbled Himself
- Taking the form of a servant

B. The Meaning of Being “Bathed” and “Washed”

Jesus says:



“The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet.”

This illustrates two aspects of salvation:

1. Justification: The Complete Bath

- When a person is born again, they are fully cleansed.
- This cleansing is complete and permanent.

2. Sanctification: The Ongoing Washing

- Believers still live in a fallen world.
- Sin and brokenness still affect daily life.
- The solution is not re-salvation, but ongoing confession and cleansing.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us.” — 1 John 1:9

C. The Assurance of Salvation

- Failure does not undo salvation.
 - But ongoing confession restores fellowship.
 - Christ continues to cleanse His people.
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IV. Loving Judas: Loving Your Enemies

A. Jesus Knew Judas Would Betray Him

- Jesus knew Judas was His enemy.
- Yet He still served him.
- He still welcomed him.
- He still loved him.

This reveals one of the defining marks of Christianity:

Believers love their enemies.

B. The True Nature of Our Enemies

“We do not wrestle against flesh and blood...” — Ephesians 6:12

Key truths:

- Our ultimate enemies are spiritual, not human.
 - People are often instruments, not the true source.
 - Love remains the Christian response.
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V. Three Biblical Ways to Love Your Enemies

Love does not always look the same in every situation. Scripture reveals three appropriate responses.



A. Serve Them

Example: Jesus washing Judas' feet

Sometimes loving your enemy means:

- Serving them
- Blessing them
- Seeking their good

Other biblical examples:

- Joseph serving Potiphar
- Daniel serving Nebuchadnezzar

This is appropriate when service is safe and righteous.

B. Leave Them

Example: Paul and Barnabas part ways

Sometimes loving your enemy means:

- Creating distance
- Ending partnership
- Maintaining peace without continued closeness

This allows peace without fostering bitterness.

C. Set Boundaries (“Block Them”)

Example: David fleeing Saul

Sometimes loving your enemy means:

- Establishing firm boundaries
- Ending the relationship for safety
- Protecting yourself and others

This is necessary when a relationship becomes harmful or dangerous.

D. The Common Thread in All Three

Christian love means:

- Refusing revenge



- Desiring their ultimate good
- Entrusting justice to God
- Forgiving and releasing bitterness

Love is defined by the heart posture, not the level of access.

VI. The Reality and Pain of Betrayal

Key Text: John 13:21–30

A. Judas' Hidden Identity

- Judas appeared trustworthy.
- He had a strong reputation.
- No one suspected him.

This reveals a sobering truth:

Not everyone is who they appear to be.

B. The Nature of Betrayal

- Betrayal often comes from those closest to us.
- Wolves frequently appear as sheep.

This reality appears throughout Scripture.

C. Encouragement for Those Who Have Been Betrayed

If you have been deceived or betrayed:

- You are not alone.
 - Even the disciples did not discern Judas.
 - Even Jesus was betrayed by someone close to Him.
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VII. The Central Message: Love to the End

Key Text: John 13:1

“Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.”

Jesus demonstrates:

- Humility
- Sacrificial love
- Faithfulness in the face of betrayal
- Compassion toward enemies
- Ongoing cleansing for His people



VIII. Application: Living in Light of Christ's Example

Followers of Jesus are called to:

- Live with eternal priorities
- Engage in spiritual vigilance
- Walk in humility
- Pursue ongoing repentance
- Love even their enemies
- Trust God with justice
- Remain faithful to the end

