

## The Lowest Kind of Love

Maundy Thursday Service

North Center || April 6, 2023

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In Latin, the word for “*command*” is “*mandatum*”.

The English language shortened the word to “*maundy*”.

- So *maundy* means *command*.

Therefore, *Maundy Thursday* is the day when Christians remember the command that Jesus gave to His followers during the Last Supper. We see this command in **John 13:34**.

A new **commandment** I give to you, that you love one another;  
as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

~ *John 13:34*

Q. So, what is the *maundy* of Thursday?

Q. What *command* did Jesus give to His followers on this day?

Answer: *Love*

Then the question becomes: how do we love?

Jesus says, “*As I have loved you.*”

So, how did Jesus love?

READ **John 13:1–5, 12–17**

How does He love?

He loves by becoming lower than the people around Him in order to serve them.

And this was nothing compared to what He had already done, and it was nothing compared to what He was going to do.

As He was dressed like a servant & washing the feet of His disciples,

He was giving them a picture of how deep His love would go for His people.

This is what the love of God looks like:

- It’s the Son of God *looking like* a son of man (Matt 20:28).
- It’s the Great Teacher *looking like* the lowly servant (John 13:4–5).
- It’s the King of Kings *looking like* a criminal (2 Cor 5:17).
- It’s the sinless man *looking like* a mangled horror (Isa 52:14).

This is how **low** the love of God **descended** so that we might see Him... <sup>1</sup>

- I was human... so He became a human (John 1:1, 14).
- I was nobody... so He became nobody, “*of no reputation*” (Phil 2:5–7).
- I was covered in sin... so He became sin (2 Cor 5:17).
- I was condemned to death... so He laid down on a cross (Rom 6:23).

Not just any cross.

He laid down on *my* cross.

On *your* cross.

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<sup>1</sup> Like a dad laying down on the floor so that his infant child can look into his eyes.

Greater love has no one than this,  
Than to lay down one's life for his friends...  
~ *John 15:13*

This is as GREAT as love could possibly get because this is as LOW as it could possibly reach.

And on this night, as Jesus prepared to love His people with every drop of blood in His body, He gave His followers a command (a *maundy*) ... love others like this.

- Lay down your life for others.
- Love this dying world with everything you have and with everything you own.
  - Use your house to love others.
  - Use your car to love others.
  - Use your food to love others.
  - Use your time & energy to love others.
  - Use your money to love others.
  - Use your words to love others.
  - Use your talents to love others.

**Take part** in this kind of love: *the kind of love* where your life is totally poured out for the sake of others (2 Cor 12:15).

As we take the Lord's Supper together (1 Cor 11:23–26)

1. We *partake* of His great love **for us**,
2. And we *affirm* that (by His grace) we will join Him in His great love **for others**.

That's what this night & this meal are all about.

After Jesus gave His followers this meal, He led them in a hymn, and then He went out and laid His life down on a cross. For **us**... and for **a world** that does not yet know His love.

Jesus descended into the deepest depths to love us.

And on this Thursday (2,000 years ago), He gave us a command: *love others like this*.