

Pastor Jim Jackson, 4/26/26

*Days With Jesus, Day 42—A New Command and a Hard Lesson*

John 13:31-38

### **Death is NEAR**

After Judas left dinner to betray him, Jesus knew his death was now immanent and he would soon finish God's work (John 3:16). In a matter of hours, Jesus would be betrayed, arrested, tried, and killed. *We often don't get to choose the timing of our life, but God's will is never late!* God's plan may include tragedy and pain as mechanisms to teach us to trust Him and create pathways for the Gospel. The mystery of God's power is that He can work through evil and bring about good, despite men's wicked plans (Rom. 8:28). *When you can't control the future, trust the One who does!*

### **Love is HERE**

The disciples believed Jesus was about to set up his kingdom on earth. So, they had been arguing about who was the greatest and would rule with him (Mark 9:33, 34; 10:35-37). But after Jesus washes their feet, he gives them insight into the heart of God. While many religions teach 'being good' to others, nothing commands believers to love (Gr. *agape*, 'sacrificial, goodwill for others') others more than yourself—the way God loves us. *A heart changed by God's love is a heart that serves with God's love* (Lev. 19:18; 1 John 4:7-11)! The 'bait' God often uses to bring others to a knowledge of Him is the reality of rare sacrificial love displayed in the world. To be a 'Jesus-lover' is to be an 'others-lover'! *If the currency of God's Kingdom is humility, then the labor of God's Kingdom is love!*

### **Peter will FEAR**

Hearing there is a traitor among the disciples, Peter publicly declares he will follow Jesus, even to death. Peter is the kind of friend every man wants and the follower that every leader needs—loyal, dedicated, hardworking, and a little crazy! *Do life with people committed to pursuing God's will and doing life God's way!* After Peter's declaration of his greatest fidelity, Jesus declares his greatest failure. As the one who traveled with Jesus over three years, was personally trained by him and one of his best friends, Peter will deny even *knowing* him three times in the next 12 hours. Though Jesus foresaw his failure, he promises his future forgiveness (2 Tim. 2:11-13). Even great men with great failures are not beyond the great grace of our great God! *With God, our failure is never final!*