

**Pastor Jim Jackson, 5/31/26**  
***Days With Jesus, Day 46—The Love That Serves***  
**John 15:12-17**

**Christ followers are to LOVE like Christ**

The disciples had recently argued about who was the greatest and left the washing of the feet to someone else. They found it easier to serve the poor than their competition (Mark 9:33-35; Luke 24:22-27). But Jesus asked them to love (Gr. *agapaó*, ‘unconditional, sacrificial devotion’) others by serving, even when it’s the hardest. *Difficult people are placed in your life to test your love for God! As God and a rabbi, Jesus doesn’t have to serve anyone and should just tell his students what to do, not demonstrate it. But, as the ultimate leader, Jesus has not only just washed their feet like a lowly servant, but within 24 hours, will willingly go to the cross and die. This kind of humble, sacrificial love is so rare it stands out in the world. People experience the love of the invisible God the best when they see sacrificial love from God’s people the most (1 John 4:7-12)!*

**Christ followers are FRIENDS of Christ**

Once Judas left the supper, Jesus was alone with the men he poured his life into for over 3 years. A first-century rabbi would call men to be his disciples (Gr. *mathétés*, ‘learner, pupil’) and servants (Gr. *doulos*, ‘bondservant, slave’; Matt. 4:18-22). After a specified time, they’d graduate with the rabbi’s blessing. *You become who you listen to—discipleship is learning from great men to become great!* (Prov. 13:20; 27:17; 1 Cor. 11:1; 15:33). Calling them friends rather than disciples makes this their graduation ceremony. Like Abraham and Moses, being friends with Jesus is being friends with God! As his friends, they are to be trustworthy, loyal, and diligent, not flaky, undependable, and lazy. *True friends can be closer than family and will sacrifice for the good of the other person (Prov. 17:17; 18:24)!*

**Christ followers are to bear FRUIT for Christ**

Drawing off the vineyard motif, Jesus tells the disciples it’s God’s heart for His kingdom to grow. The love they have for one another will draw others to God, which will be the lasting ‘fruit’ of their lives. *God uses people to reach people, and the purpose of being saved isn’t to be saved, but to save others!* This means all believers are given the ability and opportunity from God to bear fruit, so God is glorified, and they are satisfied (Matt. 28:19). *Those already in the Family should be inviting others to join the Family!*