

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for April 1-2, 2006

"Loving to the Limit"

John 13:12-17

The love of Christ exemplified (John 13:1-5).

The love of Christ explained (John 13:6-11).

The love of Christ exhorted (John 13:12-17).

Jesus' statement in John 13:7 focused on the symbolism of the foot washing while Jesus' question in John 13:12 focused on the example of the foot washing.

Jesus wanted, in John 13:12, the disciples to ponder His example in order that He might personally challenge them.

The term "Teacher" (DIDASKOLOS) was a term of respect and was equivalent to the term "Rabbi."

The term "Lord" (KYRIOS) covered everything from polite respect, like our modern "sir," to an acknowledgment of God Himself.

When Christ reminded His disciples, in John 13:13, how they addressed Him and referred to Him, He was reminding them of the authoritative and exalted position He held over them.

Jesus, in light of the authoritative and exalted position He held over them, exhorted His disciples to wash one another's feet just as He washed their feet (John 13:14-15).

When Jesus commanded His disciples, in light of His example, to wash one another's feet, He was calling His disciples to imitate His life of humble and sacrificial service.

When Christ calls us to imitate His life of service, He is calling us to serve others without limit and without any regard for our own personal interests (Philippians 2:3-8).

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If Christ was willing to devote Himself to a life of humble service and sacrificial service, without any regard for Himself, then we, as His disciples, should do the same (John 13:16).

Jesus, in John 13:17, made it clear that those disciples who know of Christ's example and imitate Christ's example should consider themselves blessed.

Those who know of Christ's example and who imitate Christ's example are blessed because they prove that they are in fact true disciples rather than simply pseudo disciples.

When Christ called us to follow Him, He did not call us to an easy life. He called us to take up our cross and to follow Him (Matthew 16:24).

If we, in obedience to Christ, follow His example of humble and sacrificial service, we will one day exchange our cross for a crown.

May God give us the grace to serve others with the same heart of compassion as Christ.