

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Sojourn // The Path of Love

Pastor Gabe

April 6, 2023

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite Holy Week holiday and why?

Reading: John 13:1-17

Outline:

- I. The Meal (v. 1)
 - A. John wants us to see that everything happening around this final meal of Jesus with his disciples is under the umbrella of Jesus' love for his followers. John is saying, I want you all to see the driving force behind the Lord's Supper is the love of Jesus for his people.
 - B. "In commemorating the death of Christ, the Eucharist breaks into the continuum of history, bringing it to a momentary standstill, short-circuiting time by abbreviating past, present, and future in a single memorable icon or dialectical image." -Terry Eagleton
Q: How does viewing communion as an act of love change the experience for you?
- II. The Fellowship (v. 2-5)
 - A. Jesus, as the second person of the Trinity, has all things in his hands, chooses to wash the feet of his disciples who will betray, abandon, and deny him.
 - B. "Such is God's desire to demonstrate his love. That in Jesus, he serves the creatures he made. He serves those who will shake their fist at him. Why? So that they might be in fellowship with Him." -Pastor Gabe
Q: When have you felt Jesus serving you in a similar way to which he served the disciples?
- III. The Mandate (v. 12-15)
 - A. Jesus mandates us to love one another as He has loved us. This is not optional. He is commanding us to love one another. That is why we need fellowship in communion, so that we can have fellowship with others.
 - B. "This meal levels hierarchies, demolishes boundaries, and proves that the person we once deemed outside our circle is the very person for whom Christ died." -Chad Bird
Q: What are other ways you have fellowship with others?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Why can't we also collect the most information possible for people who are alive, like Jesus?
- 2) What might have been the other works Jesus did?
- 3) How can we remind ourselves that Jesus changes everything even when our material circumstances don't change?
- 4) How can we seek Jesus in the mundane?

Suggestions for further study:

- John 13:34 Q: How does this verse add to the verses discussed earlier?
- 2 Corinthians 8:9 Q: How does this verse speak to the goal of communion?

Closing Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we thank you for the gift you give us in communion. We thank you that all we have to do is receive your grace. Teach us to show the love you've shown us to others. Amen.