

Scripture: John 13:1-38 (Cross Reference: Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22)

Theme: Disciple

Topic: Humility & Love & Ego

Title: Follow in His Example

Series: SP Word 2022

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WORD: DISCIPLE

- **Why Disciple?**

- I felt that it was a call for us to come and be with Jesus and follow in his example. That we would learn from the life of Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to transform us when it comes to walking in humility & love, and our ego that has been affected by sin.

INTRODUCTION

- **Define Ego:** Ego relates to one's sense of self-image in relation to our self-esteem and self-importance. Sin affects this self-image by finding ways to feel important and valued and have a high value of ourselves. This broken ego then gives way to arrogance and superiority toward others.
 - We build our egos around various things. Wealth, beauty, possessions, position, power, authority, social status, hierarchy, culture, race, profession, education, intelligence, entitlement, self-righteousness, or whatever image we create of ourselves to make us feel important and valued.
 - Can ego be found in church? Yes. It can and it is. From church leadership to church members. All those previously mentioned areas will appear in a church community setting as long as the ego-our self image is built on anything other than an identity in Christ.
- **Clarify Ego & Pride**
 - Pride will say look at what I have accomplished and attained
 - Ego will look at those accomplishments and attainments and say this makes me more important and valuable than others. Ego will always lift self above others.
 - **Examples:** Ego within a church community sounds like this..
 - "Don't they know how much money I give to this church..."
 - "I can't believe I have to help with cleaning, I am _____ I shouldn't have to do this or won't be part of cleaning/serving"
 - "Don't they know I am the pastor...don't they know how much I've sacrificed..."
- **Transition** These words and countless others are not always spoken loudly but they occur in our inner thoughts, in the attitude of our hearts. And as long as ego is present in our lives it will be difficult for us to follow Jesus.
- **Biblical Truth:**
 - Jesus demonstrates that ego in the Kingdom of God doesn't give space for humility and love. And humility and love is the path on which Jesus walked in on the way toward the Cross and the Father.

- **Scripture Reading:** John 13:1-38
- **Prayer**

Story Setting: Things have begun to become more dangerous for Jesus. The religious authorities are seeing what Jesus is doing and how crowds surrounds him. There is even a plot to kill Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. So we arrive to this moment where Jesus gathers his disciples.

MAIN POINTS

1. **The Act: v:1-5** 1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, **when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father**, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going back to God.**
 - a. **Explanation:**
 - i. **V:1 Jesus Knew**
 1. He embraced the Father's timing and will, to depart from this world. To go to the Father
 - a. What is your heart's attitude towards God's timing and will in your life? Are you willing to surrender your timing and will for God's? Have you made his timing and will your heart's desire or is it an area of struggle in your life?
 - ii. **V:3 Jesus Knowing-knew**
 1. Despite how things were going to unfold Jesus knew that his life was under the Father's sovereignty. His life in this world was in passing. Where was he going?
 2. He had come from God and was going back to God
 - a. As I read and meditated on this I thought that is such a beautiful way to view being a disciple. **A disciple of Jesus reflects who Jesus unto the world on the way home to the Father.** The journey home to our Father may be unknown as we don't know what is ahead and how things will unfold but we know where we are going and how we should live on this journey home.
- **The context for V:4:** For what is about to happen and why it is happening.
 - **Why:** Luke 22:24-30
 - 24 A **dispute** also arose among them, as to which of them was to **be regarded as the greatest.** 25 And he said to them, "The **kings** of the Gentiles **exercise lordship** over them, and **those in authority** over them are called benefactors. 26 **But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest and the leader as one who serves.** 27 For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? **But I am among you as the one who serves.**28 "You are those who have stayed with me in

my trials, 29 and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, 30 that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

- What are the disciples' disputing about? Which of them was considered to be the greatest. Their heart and thinking are revealed. Their Ego, their self-esteem, and their self-importance are confined to being the greatest and their idea of what greatness is. This idea of greatness in relation to power, authority, and position was more reflective of the world they lived in rather than the kingdom of God in which Jesus had called them into.
 - Jesus uses the examples of kings and those in authority who exercise lordship over people. A king has power, authority, and position.
 - His exhortation to them **"But not so with you"** greatness instead is being in a position of power, and authority and taking on the role as one who serves rather than is served.

Transition: The greatness we are chasing may not be the greatness Jesus considers and our ego affected by sin is the spiritual problem that needs to be addressed.

- iii. V:4-5 **THE ACT: Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet** 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

1. The Cultural Context Gives Significance to this Act

- a. In a culture where people walked long distances on dusty filthy roads in sandals, it was customary for the host to arrange for water to be available for the washing of feet or to have the servant of the house carry out that task. It was a task for the lowliest of the house. Here Jesus takes on the work and position of the lowliest in the house and begins to wash his disciples' feet.
 - i. Who is the greatest at the table? Jesus. And he takes on the lowliest cultural task.
 - ii. These are his final days on the way to the cross and he chooses to wash his disciples' feet.
- b. Jesus demonstrates something completely different in contrast to their culture and idea of greatness and a challenge to their ego's idea of greatness.

2. Preparation Description

- a. Why does John the author of the gospel describe the preparation process?
 - i. Perhaps it is to show that greatness doesn't look the way we imagine it.

2. **The Person: v:6-10** 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 8 Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you."

a. **Explanation: Peters Reaction**

- i. **Peter is Confused:** He calls Jesus LORD. A designated title for someone in authority and having power. Peter is Jesus' disciple he recognizes his place. It does not make cultural sense for Peter to receive such an act from his Lord. From a hierarchy perspective, Jesus has position, power, and authority in the lives of his disciples.
- ii. **Peter is Resistant:** Peter's resistance to receiving such an act is firm, "You shall never wash my feet."
 1. Perhaps Peter is reminded of an earlier revelation he had of Jesus. It was Peter who had the revelation from God and declared that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. So he perhaps finds himself unworthy.
 2. Peter to his benefit is **able to grasp the significance of the act because of the significance of Jesus.**

Transition: Next Jesus begins to explain this teaching moment to his disciples, and what it means to be his disciple. There are several things happening here that are important for us to grasp. Not just in what he is saying but in what he has demonstrated.

3. **The Teaching Moment: v:11-30** 11 For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." 12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. 18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, **'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.'** 19 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me." 21 After saying these things, **Jesus was troubled in his spirit**, and testified, **"Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."** 22 The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. 23 One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at the table at Jesus' side, 24 so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. 25 So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." 28 Now no one at the

table knew why he said this to him. 29 Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. 30 So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

a. Explanation:

i. Jesus Knew V:11-12

1. He knew he would be betrayed, he knew the identity of his betrayer, and he knew what his betrayer would do and what this act of betrayal would lead to.
2. And on that intimate night with his disciples, he washes the feet of the one who would betray him, Judas. Judas receives the same act of humility & love as the rest of the disciples.
3. Guess what Judas called Jesus, teacher, and lord. He even had a position within the group as he handled the money. Externally Judas played the part of disciple but internally he had given the devil a place in his heart.

b. Pause for Reflection: What this may mean for our lives

- i. I wonder what Jesus was going through as he reaches Judas. Does he feel hurt? Or anger? As he touches his feet and begins to clean them. Does he make eye contact or does he simply focus on the task? Does it matter? I don't know
- ii. Let us for a moment place ourselves in Jesus' situation. Would you wash the feet of the person who would betray you?
 1. Betrayal comes with pain and hurt how would you have responded?
 2. How would this betrayal of friendship shape you?
 - a. "Trust and betrayal among loved ones are catastrophic. It destabilizes your past, all the memories you've had. Your present & future, as betrayal, has the capacity to shake your faith in human beings and yourself.
- iii. Have you been changed by those who have hurt you? Have you responded in a way that reflects who Christ is? Yes it is difficult but this is the way of following Jesus.
- iv. My prayer for us is that we would not let circumstances or others bring us to a place where we no longer reflect who Jesus is. That we would remain steadfast in the midst of those moments.

v. Teaching Moment Explained V:13-17

1. Disciples Follow in His Example
 - a. If Jesus being God, came to earth taking on human form to die for my sins having lived a sinless life having all power and authority in heaven and on earth does not use his glory, majesty, power, and authority to avoid washing his disciples' than who am I to reject his example he has left for me to follow.
 - i. All the things I could claim as reasons for my ego to reject the path of humility and love are surpassed by the significance of who Jesus is and the example he has given me to follow.
 - b. His example empowers me to lay down my ego and practice humility and love.

- c. **The New Command: v:31-38** **31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once .33** Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' **34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."** **36** Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." **37** Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." **38** Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

i. **Explanation:**

1. **New Commandment V:34**
 - a. The Command: Love One Another
 - b. The Foundation: As I Have Loved You
2. **Our love for one another is our witness to ALL PEOPLE**

CONCLUSION:

- I want to finish with this story of finding closure and forgiveness with my dad
 - Up until my late 20's i held resentment toward my dad. A big part of that resentment came because I felt entitled that because he is my dad he should initiate relationship with me. But that initiation never came and so the resentment built overtime.
 - I knew I needed closure and forgiveness but my ego held me back for awhile. Because I had a narrative in my head that I would be better than my dad as a Father. So I held a better than attitude toward him.
 - Then one day I preached a sermon on how God loves us and initiates relationship with us. "We love him because he first loved us" and "how we ought to love as God has loved us"
 - God confronted my ego that held me back from finding reconciliation with my dad.
 - I was reflecting on how God loved me, and how I have known and experienced his love for me. Then God showed me that my dad had no such revelation of God's love in his life. Then God said to me you have known my love, and as he said those words I knew I had the capacity to love my dad. But my ego still remained in the way. So God asked me who loved you first? Who initiated? The entitlement my ego held unto crumbled.
- Jesus demonstrates that ego in the kingdom of God doesn't give space for humility & love. And humility & love is the path on which Jesus walks on the way to the Cross and to the Father. And he calls us to lay down our ego in exchange for humility and love.

- **Gospel Solution:**
 - We can't fix our sin issues ourselves, we can't fix our EGO on our own by trying harder or mustering more willpower to be humble or loving, we need God to do that in us. God imparts his grace to us through his Word and by His Spirit as we behold the example of humility & love in Christ.

- **Prayer:**

Communion

- **Read** 1 Corinthians 11:23-30
 - He was betrayed
 - His body broken
 - His blood shed for our sins
 - Our future hope that Jesus will return
 - Examine ourselves
 - Repentance that brings us to God as we put our faith in Jesus Christ and what he has done to put right our relationship with God.

- **Worship**

- **Communion**
 - We receive and remember Christ body broken for us and the cup of the new covenant of the blood of Christ shed to take away our sin.

Closing Benediction

- Now The Lord Bless you and keep you; The Lord cause His face to shine upon you; And to be gracious to you; The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace, Shalom from this day forward in the name of the father, son and Holy Spirit. Amen.