**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN**

**Are You Prepped for the Mission?, John 13:1-14:15**

Sunday, March 12, 2023

**WE Slide 1 HUGE THANKS TO BEN, JASON, and our ministry teams-** even while looking for a music guy God’s blessing, working in/through our church, growing each week. **With growth comes needs and it just so happens that this morning we’re going to talk about the dreaded “S” word!** No not THAT “S” word; talking about SERVICE. **Why?** Well, because Jesus is talking about it today in John 13- interesting timing. **Turn to pg. 1077. OVERVIEW Slide 2** As you do, here’s the plan for the next 2 weeks.

**OVERVIEW: John 13-16 Jesus’ Mission Prep for His Disciples**

1. Jesus shifts His attention from crowds/miracles to preparing the disciples to take over the ministry.
2. Jesus is giving them/us today what is ESSENTIAL to our mission of bringing the gospel to our world.
3. Splitting chapters up the next 2 weeks. Not covering every verse; pulling out key teaching; **please read**.
4. TODAY focusing on the purpose/impact of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet. **Why does He do this?**
5. NEXT week the importance of staying in close relationship with Jesus and role of God the Holy Spirit; there’s a lot of wrong teaching today on who He is and how He works in our lives.

**REVIEW: According to John 20:31 REVIEW Slide 3 John wrote his gospel so that we who read it can KNOW we have ETERNAL LIFE.** 2 ASPECTS…

* ASPECT #1: We can know HOW to RECEIVE eternal life from God- believing Jesus is God/Savior from our sin’s power/eternal death sentence.
* ASPECT #2: **Once you’re saved how do you KNOW/HAVE CERTAINTY that you’ve received eternal life?** A feeling, certificate, membership card, pay dues, secret password/handshake, what is it that confirms to us that our decision to trust Christ was sincere? **Jesus has expressed this several different ways in John but to make it simple if you have eternal life you will want to obey Jesus- you’ll do life as He commands, live for the purpose He lived. Slide 4** SUMMARY- To glorify God (make Him known) through an obedient life that draws people to Jesus for salvation, and to help them grow in their relationship with Him.
* **That summarizes Jesus’ life and as disciples/followers/believers it should summarize our lives.** I get it that some professing Christians don’t believe this or would verbally agree but their life would show they live for what the rest of the world lives for- self. **When Jesus said “follow Me” He meant do life My way/My purposes.** As He PREPS the disciples for His soon coming death/burial/resurrection/ascension and eventually handing the mission off to them He shares with them/US not only what is true of those who have eternal life, but also the **ESSENTIALS** to being successful in that SAME mission.

**LET’S SEE what Jesus has for us: If you were Jesus, you had 11 ragtag, fearful, mostly uneducated men through whom You wanted to spread your message of salvation to the entire world, what’s the #1 thing you’d want them to know or skill you’d want them to have?** Articulate, able to influence people or network well, hypnosis/manipulation, good with logistics/planning?Look what the 1st thing Jesus does in preparing His guys to take over the mission of bringing the gospel to the world. **John 13:3-5 Slide 5-8 Can you imagine having that training the first day at your new job? Jesus washes their feet, INCLUDING Judas’ feet! Why in the world would Jesus do this?** Not just why would the God of the universe stoop so low to wash the dirt, dust, trash, and poop from animals off the feet of these guys? **But what does washing their feet have to do with the disciples getting that message of salvation to the world?** Jesus tells us. **John 13:12-17 Slide 9-13 The 1ST ESSENTIAL for MISSION SUCCESS is HUMBLE SERVICE.**

**GOD**

1. **ESSENTIAL #1: SERVE HUMBLY, John 13:12-17**
2. **Foot Washing- Job of the Lowest Servant JESUS IS GOD!!**
3. **Jesus Is Our Lord/Teacher; We Are His Servants/Disciples More than that He created us!!!**
4. We are to learn from/imitate Jesus and His willingness to serve as the lowest servant.
5. We “ought to”- opheilo; must, obligated to serve because Jesus/God did and we imitate Him.

**QUESTION: Believer are you serving other believers/your church family? Jesus says it’s what His followers do.** **THIS REQUIRES YOU TO BE HERE REGULARLY BY THE WAY.** Jesus said… **Slide 14**

1. **You and I Are Not Greater Than Jesus**
2. “greater”- megas; prominent, outstanding, more important; what Jesus did we do.
3. He took the role of the least important servant as an example for how we’re to see ourselves.
4. More than that on the cross He took on the role of a sinner, served us by taking our judgment.

**QUESTION: Believer do you consider yourself greater than Jesus-God/think you’re more important than Him? According to Jesus a believer who isn’t serving considers themselves better than/more important than Jesus.** However, when we serve as Jesus served, He says we’ll be BLESSED. **Slide 15**

1. **We Are Blessed by God for Serving Like Jesus**
2. “blessed”- makarios; receiving divine favor; general word, has the sense of being assured by God you’re doing right; a divine “atta boy!! Good job!”
3. Serving like Jesus gives you confidence that you have eternal life because only followers of Jesus serve like Jesus. **Not saying serving saves you…serving shows you’re already saved.**
4. So many Christians are discouraged/depressed/disillusioned with Christianity and it’s because their focus is on self. **Who was Jesus thinking about here/on the cross?** God/others; so should we.

**TRANSITION: As the events of the dinner progress Jesus tells the disciples that one of them will betray Him, John asks who it is, Jesus says, “It’s the one I give this bread to.” and He gives it to Judas.** He must have said it quietly because no one reacted to it, then Jesus tells Judas, “What you do, do quickly.” and Judas leaves. **With Judas gone Jesus continues.** He says soon He will be glorified- reveal more about who He is/what He’s doing and in that God will be glorified- they’ll know more about who God is/what He’s doing. **He also says He’s going to be leaving and they can’t come with Him BUT tells them what they need to do while He is gone.** **John 13:34-35 Slide 16-18** It only makes sense that Jesus would command them to LOVE SACRIFICIALLY right after saying it’s their obligation to serve each other- SERVING EACH OTHER IS HARD- takes time, keeps us from what we want to do. **Serving is MOTIVATED by LOVE; it’s the physical demonstration of our love and why it’s the 2ND ESSENTIAL to MISSION SUCCESS.**

1. **ESSENTIAL #2: LOVE SACRIFICIALLY, John 13:34-35**
2. **A New Commandment**
3. The command to love goes back to the OT, what makes it new is “as I have loved you.”
4. “love”- agapeo; self-sacrificial meeting of needs; **SACRIFICE = PAIN**
5. Agape love is not a warm sentiment/emotion based/warm fuzzy it’s a verb/commitment/sacrifice.
6. It’s looking out for the best of someone else, giving them what they need/not what we think they deserve, no matter how much it might hurt us to do it.
7. Imagine the impact of this as the disciples looked back on this conversation after Jesus’ death, resurrection, and return to heaven- **He’s saying- die for each other as I have died for you.**

**QUESTION: Believer are you loving other believers, STARTING IN YOUR HOMES? Think about the last time a believer hurt you. What was your response?** Get angry, lash out in your heart/at them, tell others what they did, but not talk to them or get angry, stop, pray for them, evaluate why you were hurt, then set up a time to talk to that person? **Did you respond with what you thought they deserved or with what they needed?** Believers in Jesus show their eternal life by taking the hurt to Him and obeying Him in their response to that person. **How does this help us be successful in the MISSION we’ve been given? Slide 19**

1. **Our Love (actions) Shows Non-believers Jesus’ Disciples**
2. Jesus doesn’t say non-believers will know we are His followers by saying “I love my church family.”
3. He doesn’t say they’ll will know we are His followers by telling them we’re His followers.
4. He says they’ll know we are by how we love each other/serve each other/sacrifice for each other.
5. Non-believers are looking for/attracted to that kind of love- they’ll ask us about it.

**TRANSITION: PETER/THOMAS/PHILIP are all still hung up on Jesus saying He’s leaving and they can’t come with Him.** Peter challenges Jesus- “What do you mean I can’t come? I’ll die for you!” **Jesus- “No you’re going to deny Me 3x before the rooster crows, but don’t get worked up I’m going to prepare a place for you and will come back to get you.”** THOMAS asks how they can know the way to where Jesus is going and Jesus says, “The way is through Me- I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” **PHILIP pipes up and asks Jesus to show them the Father and they’d believe.** Jesus is somewhat bummed with Philip and says, “**Haven’t I shown you the Father through the works of the Father?** If you don’t believe Me, believe the works!” **Then Jesus tries to encourage them with this promise which is the 3RD ESSENTIAL for a SUCCESSFUL MISSION. John 14:12-14 Slide 20-23** Jesus promises them/us that we will do GREATER works than He did and so whatever we ask in His name He’ll give it to us- that should motivate us to PRAY CONFIDENTLY knowing He’ll give us what we’ll pray for. **That almost sounds too good to be true so let’s flesh that out a little… Slide 24**

1. **ESSENTIAL #3: PRAY CONFIDENTLY, John 14:12-15**
2. **Disciple Will Do Greater Works than Jesus-** Not greater in kind- nothing is greater than raising yourself from the dead, greater in extent/reach; they will spread the gospel farther than Jesus ever did.

**To accomplish that we will need help from Him- this is a huge task with many needs. Slide 25**

1. **Jesus Will Give Us What We Ask For**
2. We must “ask in Jesus’ name”- **What’s that mean?** Ask with His authority **for His purposes**.
3. He will give us whatever we need to accomplish HIS mission; not what we want to do.

**QUESTION: Believer how’s your prayer life?** Are you praying for family/friends/co-workers/YOURSELF in line with the mission Jesus has given you, or is it more in line with the mission you have for your life?

**Before Jesus goes on to talk about sending the Holy Spirit and how He will impact the mission we’ve been given, which we’ll look at next week, He closes by saying this. John 14:15 Slide 26-27** The final ESSENTIAL for SUCCESS in the MISSION, as well as, how can I know I’ve received eternal life, is RESPOND OBEDIENTLY to Jesus.

1. **ESSENTIAL #4: RESPOND OBEDIENTLY**
2. **It’s a Demonstration of Our Love for Jesus**
3. **It’s Looking Out for Jesus’ Best No Matter What It Costs Us**
4. **It Costs Us Doing Life Our Way/Our Purposes**

**QUESTION: Believer, do you love Jesus? I mean really love Him, not just say the words or have a warm fuzzy feeling about Him.** Do you love Jesus the way He has loved you- SACRIFICIALLY? **Slide 28** If so then your life will begin to look more and more like His- you’ll Serve Humbly, Love Sacrificially, Pray Confidently and Respond Obediently. **AS WE CLOSE the take aways are pretty obvious. Slide 29**

**YOU TAKEAWAYS**

1. **Where are you humbly serving? Jesus said we His disciples are not greater than Him-** He served us/died for us and He commands us to sacrificially serve motivated by the same love that put Him on the cross.
2. We need people in every ministry- grab a Connect Card, fill it out, and mark on the back your area of interest and we’ll get with you.
3. Toe-dipping- commit to serve on the Impact team at one of our Easter services.
4. Be praying and considering stepping up to serve in our GraceKids ministry as we’ve had to move into the Quad with so many kids.
5. **Slide 30 How are you sacrificially loving? It starts in your family and motivates your serving.**
6. **How are you confidently praying? Praying for Jesus’ mission to be accomplished in each situation.** It’ll change how you pray.
7. **Do you love Jesus? If so you’ll respond in obedience.**

**LET’S STAND AND CLOSE IN PRAYER.**

**PODCAST: Are you prepped for the mission? John 13:1-14:15**