

# **Affection is Synonymous with Discipleship**

Scripture: John 13:1–35

## **INTRODUCTION**

A. Our text is John 13:1–35.

B. The last night of Jesus' life was both *sad* and *significant*.

1. It was sad because of the trauma and pain Jesus was to endure in just a matter of hours.

2. It was significant because of the tremendous lessons He taught in His final hours.

C. As we shall see, the Lord Jesus “loved to the uttermost” His disciples (John 13:1).

D. We shall notice how His affection was communicated and how it affected the men.

E. Not only did He talk about it, He demonstrated it in unforgettable ways.

F. We shall see that His love was directed toward three specific targets according to John 13, just as ours should be.

## **I. AN INTRODUCTION TO AFFECTION (13:1–3)**

A. Read verses 1 through 3.

B. What consists the Passover meal?

1. The roasted lamb was a symbol of the Lamb who was to come and take away the sins of the world.

2. They had bitter herbs to remind them of those bitter days in Egypt.

3. They placed the meal in clay dishware to remind them of the slavery in which they molded bricks and artifacts for the Egyptians.

4. They celebrated this feast each year as a reminder of how their lives had been spared and how they had been permitted to escape Egypt and go toward the Promised Land.

C. John is writing about this last meal sixty years after it happened, and he is still impressed with how much Jesus loved His disciples.

1. He says, “He loved His own even unto the end.”

2. Even in the shadow of the cross, His thoughts were on others.

## **II. THE DEMONSTRATION OF AFFECTION (13:4-30)**

A. We see three ways affection is to be demonstrated, and how our attitude is to be demonstrated toward people.

1. It is demonstrated toward the “Insider.”

2. It is demonstrated toward the “Potential Insider.”

3. It is demonstrated toward the “Outsider.”
- B. But first, let us notice what happened before they ate.
  1. First, feet had to be washed.
  2. But, who was going to wash their feet?
    - a. They had just been arguing over who was “Number One.”
    - b. You think, “Now one of them is going to be volunteering to wash the rest of their feet?”

**C. Thus, Jesus demonstrated affection to the “Insider.”**

1. Read verse 12.
  - a. Affection has to be clothed with the garment of humility.
  - b. We must show humility to those who are the closest to us.
  - c. Affection is demonstrated best by humility.
  - d. However, this is not characteristic of our day!
  - e. Pride is characteristic of our day!
    - (1) We say, “Me first.”
    - (2) We say, “I want my way.”
    - (3) We say, “I have to do my own thing.”
  - f. Christians must demonstrate humility to those closest to them.
    - (1) We must say, “You go first.”
    - (2) We must say, “You can have the last piece.”
  - g. But pride dies hard!
  - h. We cannot be Jesus’ disciples until we clothe ourselves with the affection of humility.
  - i. Have you ever elbowed your way to the front of the line at a sale or to get on a plane? Was that the spirit of Christ?
  - j. I say again, humility is the way to show affection, especially to those closest to you.
  - k. Our children and mates need to see us responding to each other in humility.
2. Read verse 17.
  - a. Who are the happiest people in the world?
  - b. The *givers* are the happiest, not the takers.
  - c. If you want to be *happy*, then *learn to give*.

**D. Next, Jesus demonstrated affection toward the “Potential Insider.”**

1. Read verse 20.
  - a. Your Bible may say “accepts,” or it might say “welcomes.”
  - b. But Jesus was saying, “You accept those I *accept*; you welcome those I am willing to *welcome*.”
2. What is our attitude then toward the “Potential Insider”?
  - a. It is one of acceptance.

- b. We welcome them.
- 4. The enemy of *acceptance is exclusiveness!*
  - a. Many of us have no time for anyone except our little group.
  - b. Jesus says, “You welcome everybody.”
- 5. Turn to Luke 9:49-50.
  - a. Who was he?
  - b. He was not one of the twelve. Maybe he was not even one of the seventy.
  - c. But Jesus said, “Do not bother him. Leave him alone. If he is not opposed to me, he is for me!”
- 6. We need to be careful that we do not draw circles the Lord has not drawn.
  - a. We are going to stand for truth and right.
  - b. But be careful about drawing your circles!
  - c. Always leave room in your group for one more.
  - d. There is nothing wrong with having special groups or friends, but always be sure the door is left open for others to enter.
- 7. Matthew 11:28 says “Come unto me . . .”
  - a. Who do we want at church?
  - b. We want all colors and all kinds!

**E. Now notice how Jesus demonstrated affection toward the “Outsider.”**

- 1. Notice verses 27–30.
- 2. Notice the enemy of the good traits.
  - a. The enemy of humility is pride.
  - b. The enemy of acceptance is exclusiveness.
  - c. The enemy of tolerance is prejudice.
- 3. Jesus was tolerating Judas.
  - a. He was hoping he would change.
  - b. He was urging him to change.
- 4. We often look at people and give up.
  - a. We say, “He will never change.”
  - b. We say, “He cannot change.”
  - c. We say, “Just leave him alone.”
- 5. Each of you is a trophy to someone’s grace.
  - a. “You changed,” we say.
  - b. “But someone reached me,” you say.
  - c. “They tolerated me and reached me,” you say.

**III. INSTRUCTION ON AFFECTION (13:31, 35)**

**A. How is your love life?**

- 1. Your love life ought to be the badge of affection.

2. That is the badge of discipleship.
  - a. We ought to wear the garment of humility toward the “Insider.” Its enemy is pride.
  - b. Toward the “Potential Insider” you ought to be wearing the garment of “acceptance.” The enemy of acceptance is exclusiveness.
  - c. Toward that person who is an “Outsider,” who is always being caustic and sarcastic, you tolerate him and say, “I believe in you. I still think you can turn around. I believe God can make something good out of YOU.” The enemy of tolerance is prejudice.

B. Read verses 34 and 35.

C. Now think of someone that you really do not like or care for, who has done you dirty or mistreated you in some way.

1. How are you going to love him?
2. I am suggesting it has to be in the following ways.
  - a. You love him by humility if he is a Christian.
  - b. You love him by acceptance if he is someone who could be a Christian.
  - c. You love him by tolerance if he is someone who is outside.

D. “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,” Jesus said.

1. They will not know you are His disciple because you have been baptized for the forgiveness of your sins.
2. They will not know you are His disciple because we do not have a piano.
3. They will not know you are His disciple because of the sign in front of our building.
4. They will know by our *love for one another*.
  - a. We have to demonstrate our love for others.
  - b. We have to wear our badge of discipleship.

## **CONCLUSION**

A. Read verse 35.

B. Put it to heart.

C. Wear it everyday.