

Redeeming Passion

This is the most important weekend of our Christian calendar. It is important that we approach it with a sense of reverence and make it a time of reflexion. Our whole faith stands on what we celebrate this week.

Text: John 13:1-17

V.1 - *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, **having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.***

1. He loved them to the end

V.1b – *“having loved His own who were in the world, **He loved them to the end**”*

He knew that Judas was going to betray Him, that Peter was going to deny Him, and that all the disciples were going to be eventually dispersed and retreat in fear. He knew all that – however, He loved them to the end. Nothing that they had done or would do, could change the love Jesus had for them. Jesus loved them completely and consistently to the end.

Easter is fundamentally a story of passion, of redeeming passion – it is the story of God demonstrating His love toward us. We have all sinned, we have all gone astray but He loved us enough to bring us back to Him through what Jesus did on the cross.

2. We need a fresh revelation of that love

V.12: *“So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them: do you know what I have done for you?”*

Do you know what I have done for you? – It is very important that we know what He has done for us and the kind of love with which He loved us. Do you know what He has done for you?

Ephesians 3:17-19 - *17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

We stop short of the fullness of all that God has for us when we do not know the love of Christ. We need a revelation of this love. We will never be complete until we understand the highest banner of the kingdom of God: love.

Verse 18 says that *“we may be able to comprehend with all the saints...”*

To “*comprehend*” in the Greek means to receive experientially, not simply to understand intellectually.

Do you know what I have done for you?

There was much to understand about that moment:

1. First, the humility of Jesus
2. Secondly, that it is Christ who washes us. It is Him Who makes us acceptable at the King’s table.
3. We need to know what His love is.

1 John 3:16 - *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

Easter is basically God’s illustrated sermon on what love looks like.

3. We need to love like Jesus

John 13: 15-17 - *“For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them”*

The **Passion Translation** says: *“So now put into practice what I have done for you, and you will experience a life of happiness enriched with untold blessings”.*

Love needs to be a revelation we carry, and also something we practice. Love needs to become a lifestyle and a conscious decision we walk in, every day.

- a) In **Eph. 3: 17** we read how we need to be rooted and grounded in love (we need to be set firmly in love and draw on the nutrients of that kind of soil, in order to live complete lives and fruitful lives).
- b) Here we read that Jesus set the example. He is the pattern. Easter is Jesus setting an example of the kind of life that will ultimately carry His blessing (**v. 17** – *“If you do these things, blessed are you if you do them”*).

The passion of Jesus needs to be our passion too. The church is to carry the heartbeat of God, His pulsation, His love, His passion. Jesus didn’t die for an indifferent church in cardiac arrest, but He wants us to be like him.

Luke 22:14-15 - *When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*

Jesus had a fervent desire, a burning passion – there was great intensity about his love. His heart was burning for that moment. We are to be fervent people as well.

For instance, the Bible speaks of Apollos as someone **fervent** in spirit:

Acts 18:25: *“This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.*

Romans 12:10-12 – *“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; **11** not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.*

1 Peter 4:8 - *And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."*

Conclusion

John 13: 33-35 - *Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. **34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

We need to love in every direction: love God, love one another, love those away from Him.

3 things we need to remember from this passage:

1. Jesus loved his disciples (in spite of their imperfections) right to the end
2. Easter is a revelation of God's love
3. Jesus modelled what kind of live we are to live