

Chico Alliance Church

March 20, 2016

Pastor David Welch

“The Intimate Teaching Ministry of Christ”

John 13-17

INTRODUCTION

The first Sunday we focused on the **Incomparable Person of Christ.**

Last Sunday we focused on the **Immense Earthly Ministry of Christ.**

Today we will explore the **Intimate Teaching of Christ.**

Good Friday will focus on the **Intense suffering of Christ.**

Resurrection Sunday will focus on the **Incredible Resurrection of Christ.**

Introduction

Jesus spent much of His time teaching groups of people. He Himself claimed He came to preach the gospel. He cited Isaiah’s prophesy regarding the proclamation ministry of Messiah. After three years of public ministry Jesus withdrew into a personal intimate teaching ministry with His disciples. This happened just prior to His capture and crucifixion. The Gospel of John captures the content of that teaching in what has been labeled the “Upper Room Discourse.”

This week celebrates Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem a week prior to His arrest. This was the last public rally before obscurity and rejection. Jesus had, on several occasions, foretold His suffering and death but the disciples really didn’t appreciate the gravity of it all. Jesus gathered His close disciples in a borrowed room to celebrate Passover and share vital information that they would need to know in the days to come.

The disciples were alone with Jesus in the Upper Room. The world was locked out. Only a handful of mortals and honored angels would see what happened there. Preaching the Word - Preaching the Word – John

Like anyone aware of the time of their impending death, Jesus took time to communicate things nearest and dearest to His heart. These things were recorded for us by the Apostle John. It is obviously a large portion of Scripture there is only time for a brief overview. Jesus taught things to the group and also addressed individual disciples. I will focus on group lessons. Jesus affirmed the reason for the truth He taught.

“I have spoken these things to you so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. John 15:11

I. Truth about Humility & Forgiveness John 13:1-20

Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. During supper, the devil having already put (thrown) into the heart of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. 1-4

This must have been a highly emotional time. Jesus had celebrated Passover many times but this one had heavy personal significance. In the group there was a dispute among the disciples.

And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. Luke 22:24

Judas already had devil-implanted plans to betray Jesus. John used the perfect tense betrayal was thrown into his heart and it was still there. None of this diminished His unbounded love for these flawed followers. With full awareness of His worth and work Jesus did the unexpected. He humbled Himself to do what should have been done to Him. This pitiful party of followers became the recipient of a supreme act of humility and service by the Creator of the universe. The Lord of all served them all.

So He got up from supper, laid aside His robe, took a towel, and tied it around Himself. Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him.

Most wore sandals in a dry and dusty terrain. Travel from place to place picked up dirt and many had a habit of providing a place or a person to wash the dirt from traveling of their feet. Jesus took on a servant's task of washing feet because no one else possessed the humility to do it for the other. Most would have gladly washed Jesus' feet but no one another's. Jesus having recently entered Jerusalem to the adoring shout of the adoring crowd, stooped to wash dirty feet.

Further Contemplation

Our modern translations use the past tense, but the Greek uses the present. Jesus rises from supper just as in the Incarnation he rose from his place of perfect fellowship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. He lays aside his garments just as he had temporarily set aside his glorious existence. He takes a towel just as he took upon himself the form of a servant. He wraps a towel around his waist, for he had come to serve. He pours water into the basin, just as he was about to pour out his blood in order to wash away human sin. He washes his disciples' feet just as he cleanses his children. On this remarkable occasion Jesus perfectly staged a portrayal of his whole life from birth to death to resurrection! It was a dramatization of Phil. 2:5-9 Kent Hughes

Impetuous Peter blurted out what probably everyone else was thinking.

"Lord, are YOU going to wash MY feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I'm doing you don't understand now, but afterward you will know." "You will never wash my feet—ever!" Peter said.

"Not by any means shall you wash my feet EVER!" (to the ages)

Jesus replied, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with Me."

Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." "

One who has bathed," Jesus told him, "doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean.

Jesus used two different terms. One referred to a total washing; a bath. The other referred to the cleansing of a particular body part; i.e. hands, face, feet.

You are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him. This is why He said, "You are not all clean." John 13:4-11

The lesson here is more than humility and service to others. Jesus addresses the essential element for fellowship; forgiveness. Jesus told Peter that without forgiveness there can be no relationship.

What they would learn later is that essential cleansing would be accomplished by His sacrifice on their behalf. *Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:19-22*

Once such a cleansing is accomplished there only need to be the daily foot washing as we travel in a sinful world. Jesus didn't stop with that demonstration but called on them to do what He did.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. John 13:16-17

II. Truth about love 13:31-35

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:31-35

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This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends. John 15:12-14

The model for loving others is Jesus' love for us. Love one another AS I have loved you! It is not an option but a command. Such love will clearly identify the true followers of Jesus from the phony ones. John had much more to say about loving one another in his later letter. See John 4 John used the word love 21 times in 14 verses.

He goes as far as saying failure to love one another prevent loving God.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. 1John 5:1-2

III. Truth about an eternal perspective produced peace

The key to surviving difficult times is gaining AND maintaining an eternal perspective. If I can visualize the end game, I can endure the middle. Jesus encouraged His disciples in their time of deep sorrow about His departure.

“Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also. You know the way [to] where I am going.” “Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where You’re going. How can we know the way?” Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. “If you know Me, you will also know My Father. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.” “Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time without your knowing Me, Philip? The one who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on My own. The Father who lives in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves. John 14:1-11

Focus on the future.

Look: An hour is coming, and has come, when each of you will be scattered to his own home, and you will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.” John 16:31-33
Often times peace come through perspective. Here Jesus predicts problems but promises victory. Jesus promised inner peace in spite of coming persecution.

“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Your heart must not be troubled or fearful. You have heard Me tell you, ‘I am going away and I am coming to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe. John 14:27-31

“If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love [you as] its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you: ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will also keep yours. But they will do all these things to you on account of My name, because they don’t know the One who sent Me. John 15:18-25

“I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling. They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. They will do these things because they haven’t known the Father or Me. But I have told you these things so that when their time comes you may remember I told them to you. I didn’t tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you. John 16:1-4

Jesus knew they wanted to question Him, so He said to them, “Are you asking one another about what I said, ‘A little while and you will not see Me; again a little while and you will see Me’? “I assure you: You will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. When a woman is in labor she has pain because her time has come. But when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the suffering because of the joy that a person has been born into the world. So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will rob you of your joy. John 16:19-23

IV. Truth about prayer

All of my ministry life, I have struggled with the of Jesus’ promises regarding prayer. At time I have wondered if these promises were limited to the present company. One of two things would enable the Apostles to change the world. The first is prayer. Just that one night, Jesus declared the power of prayer six times.

“I assure you: The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14:12-13

If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:14

If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples. John 15:7-8

You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. John 15:16

In that day you will not ask Me anything. “I assure you: Anything you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. John 16:23

Until now you have asked for nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. John 16:24

In that day (day of persecution) you will ask in My name. I am not telling you that I will make requests to the Father on your behalf. For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God. John 16:26-27

V. Truth about the Holy Spirit

The second element in changing the world was the promise of the Holy Spirit. Jesus used a term regarding the Holy Spirit that means “one called alongside”. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit in His place. He called Him “another of like kind” to be with them

*“If you love Me, you will keep My commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another **Encourager** to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn’t see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains **with** you and will be **in** you. I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. John 14:15-18*

*But the **Encourager**, the Holy Spirit—the Father will send Him in My name—will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you. John 14:26*

*“When the **Encourager** comes, the One I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—He will testify about Me. You also will testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning. John 15:26-27*

*“But now I am going away to Him who sent Me, and not one of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the **Encourager** will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you. When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: About sin, because they do not believe in Me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me; and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you. Everything the Father has is Mine. This is why I told you that He takes from what is Mine and will declare it to you. John 16:5-15*

Somehow after the Spirit began His ministry, you don’t get the idea the the disciples lamented the absence of Jesus. The Holy Spirit’s ministry seemed so real He really was another Encourager like Jesus.

VI. Truth about Obedience

So much is bantered about regarding Old Testament law keeping. Jesus had a great deal to say about obedience. Obedience is the demonstration of genuine love.

The one who has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I also will love him and will reveal Myself to him.” If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. The one who doesn’t love Me will not keep My words. The word that you hear is not Mine but is from the Father who sent Me. John 14:21-24

“If you love Me, you will keep My commands. John 14:15

*"If you keep My **commandments**, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. This is My **commandment**, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. You are My friends if you do what I **command** you. This I **command** you, that you love one another. John 15:10-17*

VII. Truth about Abiding and fruit bearing 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper. Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He lifts up, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples. John 15:1-8

This was all about keeping connected to power source. If you want to bear good fruit you must keep connected to the root. God chose us to bear fruit. This passage talks about the work of the Father to go from no fruit to fruit, much fruit and more fruit that glorifies God and validates our connection as disciples, followers of Jesus. These truths stand as important today as they did 2000 years ago.

**Take heed.
Take heart.**