

**Date:** 3/3/2019 - (Harvest Bible Chapel Napels)

**Scripture:** Acts 3:1-10; John 13:1-17;31-35; Phil 2:1-8 NASB

**Message title:** "Love that leaves a legacy"

**Intro:** ( Share a little bit about our journey...Katie and I...) Thank you! One thing I noticed in pastoral ministry is that many "Christians" just aren't LOVING. Life is HARD!

When people look at our lives.... What is the first thing that they think about? ONE WORD! Driven, Angry, generous, short fussed, greedy, prideful, controlling, depressing, joyful. If they don't think LOVING we have some work to do...

Acts 3:1-10

- This mans life was changed forever because two Christ followers were living the legacy of LOVE that Jesus left...They took the time to **STOP!!!** 🛑
- Legacy = something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor from the past. What does does your families legacy look like?
- MINE? Temporary- Bracelet from Muggy. That this not what we are going for! **Everything Jesus did for people impacted eternal destiny!**
- How many things will we give/speak/ TODAY, this month/year that will change a person forever? **Forever is what is at stake!**

**Hook:**

Today, I want to show us how Jesus choose to **LOVE** and **leave** a **legacy** in which the value is increasing and still living on...

John 13:1

- Set the scene...Served our world in public ministry for 3 years... miracles, healing, leading, loving. Time of passover...NOW a few days from the cross. Jesus will lay down a LONG lasting principle (a command)...to **LOVE**.

**Main point**- Knowing how I will die, determines how I will love/live and what I will leave.

- Elaborate on point...Focus is on the eternal. **Do you know how you will die? With Christ or without Christ ?**

"I have been **crucified** with Christ; and it is **no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. (Galatians 2:20 NASB)

<<<**Pattern**>>>

- 1) Loving Jesus (relationship) >>>
  - 2) living like Him (on mission) >>>
  - 3) loving like Him (agape-hands, feet, eyes, ears) >>>
  - 4) leaving for Him >>> (change that lasts a lifetime! Here and then!)
- Jesus wanted to leave something that would last..."He **LOVED** them to **the end**." His end on earth was really just the beginning.
  - Jesus wasn't like..." Finally the END!" (closing time Disney "magic hours") Jesus still compassionate, focused on the end goal, more patient and more loving than ever in this moment...

VS-2-5

- Now, Jesus...GOD- models once again what it looks like to **serve**...
- Some commentators say that their wasn't a servant in this room since it was rented space. Why Jesus then? Why not John, Peter, Judas? They were arguing about how great they were!

- Legacy leaving LOVE sees a need and then is compelled to meet that need. (glorifies God)
- **Washing Feet!** Dirty...disgusting...smelly...FEET! GROSS! 🤢 Sadly enough we say the same thing about people...LBGTQ, political bent, social status, tattooed pastors. 😬
- Jesus was once again showing them how to **get LOW** and **serve people** when the need arises.
- *“Ministry happens when divine resources met human needs through loving channels to the glory of God. “* **Weirsbe**

#### VS-6-8

- “If I do not wash you, you have no part with me...”
- Allowing Jesus to wash you (mind, will, emotions, soul) **immediately brings change**. You have to **allow Him** to wash you! **Have you done that?**
- 🐑 *Listen carefully...*There can be things in our life that you have not allowed the LORD to wash, and because of that it is impossible to LOVE! Allow the LORD to wash you! Hurt, Guilt, shame, offense, un-forgiveness...*Your life is too short, calling to great to live under the burden of yesterday!*

#### VS-9-11

- **Did Jesus wash Judas feet? YES!**
- **Legacy leaving LOVE**, sees ALL people the same. (no prejudice)
- John 3:16 For God so loved **the world (ALL)**...He gave...if you believe in Him.

- Judas could have **repented** in that moment! But he didn't and Satan entered Him. Vs 27.
- Judas was not willing to be WASHED (spiritually). Jesus' eyes of love, looking right at the one who put a bounty on his head. Legacy leaving love sees ALL people the same... "**there is HOPE!**"
- 🔥 Today you can repent and look 🙏 into Jesus eyes of love and receive Him as Savior. Today is the day of salvation! Today is the day of change!

### VS 12-15

- What Jesus did was an example for them to follow. **Legacy leaving LOVE!**
- Feet washing was a **NEED** in their culture. What is a NEED in our culture that we can use as an example? Washing a car, washing clothes, making a meal, baby sitting, surrounding a foster family...
- Authentic Christian LOVE = UB4ME

CR- If time allows- Philippians 2:1-8 40min 🕒

### VS 16-17

- Blessed if we DO!!! Not only observing, or hearing but **DOING!** I am convinced that we don't need another sermon. We need to apply what we already know.
- Legacy leaving LOVE, is a VERB (takes action)
- 🔑 Our doing should be rooted and begin to grow because of what Jesus had DONE!! So, how are we DOING?

### VS- 31-35

- Is Jesus allowed to give new commandments? YES!! **LOVE one-another** as I have loved you!
- Story of putting our hand prints in concrete. (like fresh poured concrete the impression of this LOVE would eventually harden and be an example for us.)
- These men would be the ones to carry the **burring torch of GOD'S LOVE** to the world and they needed to get it right.
- Fruit of the Spirit is...LOVE.
- Why? VS-35
-  Our World will know **WHO's we are** by the way we **live**. The way we **speak**. The way we serve. The way we **sacrifice**. The way we **LOVE!!**
- And **whatever you do or say**, do it as a **representative** of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17 NLT

*"The main evidence of maturity in the christian life is a growing love for God and for God's people, as well as a love for lost souls." W. Weirsbe*

Having a love for LOST souls bears witness in the way that we first LOVE GOD, and then love others. The unsaved person should want what you have!!! **Are we giving them a reason to desire what we have?**

**Close:**

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this **great treasure**. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. (2 Corinthians 4:7 NLT)

Jesus as we know would go to the cross to put on the greatest **LOVE SHOW** this world has ever seen!

**Knowing how I will die, determines how I will live/love and what I will leave.**

What do you want to be known for? What will you leave behind?  
What do you people think when they think about you? How about this CHURCH?

“They are LOVING!” **Let that be or testimony!** Let Jesus’ commandment to LOVE be our aim.

**YOU ARE LOVED!**

**PRAY/ SALVATION/ REPENTANCE/ RECOMMITMENT**

**Song:** Lead me to the cross, where you love poured out, bring me to my knees, Lord I lay me down, rid me of myself I belong to you, LEAD ME to the cross!

## Additional notes:

"We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth."

1 John 3:16-18 NASB

"Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God."

1 Peter 1:22-23 NASB

"Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;"

1 Thessalonians 4:9 NASB

"I am writing to remind you, dear friends, that we should love one another. This is not a new commandment, but one we have had from the beginning. Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning."

2 John 1:5-6 NLT

"I am writing to remind you, dear friends, that we should love one another. This is not a new commandment, but one we have had from the beginning. Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning."

2 John 1:5-6 NLT

*"We have just enough religion to make us hate but not enough to make us love another."*

**Johnathan Swift**- (author of Gulliver's travels)

Knowing how I **LEAVE** this world will determine how I choose to **LOVE** this world (people).

Do you know how you will die? Are you confident having full assurance of your salvation? Many things compete for our love but nothing compares to God's love! Taste and see.

Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ( Cor 5:14 NLT)

Whatever you have done to the least of these you have done to ME.

To die is gain.

I have been crucified with christ.

If you want to the greatest of all be the servant.

Phil 2. Servanthood of the Lord.

How did we we get to this story from 1st Peter ?

**Small Group questions:** Acts 3:1-10; John 13:1-17;31-35; Phil 2:1-8 NASB

Being commanded to love can be hard at times especially when my view of "love" has been distorted due to things that have effected me in my life. How can you make intentional steps to growing in LOVE?

Are there things in your life that you have not allowed Jesus to wash (remove or resurrect)? Talk about how this has hindered your spiritual growth and your relationship with others.

Read John 13:34-35: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." - Loving one another by nature is a witness to our world. If we can't love each other then well, then those who don't know Christ will never want what we claim to possess. How can we grow in our relation ethic to one another as members of ONE body?

It has been said that, "Ministry happens in the margins of life." Discuss ways that you can build an intentional margin (awareness) into your busy life so that ministry opportunities can meet.

Authentic Christian LOVE = You before ME. We live in a world that is ego centric and thrives on status (power and prestige). How can we as authentic followers of Christ, serve each other with the example that Jesus gave to us? CR. Phil 2:1-8

One of our pillars is **unafraid witness**. Have you had the blessing of witnessing to someone, the life giving power and saving grace of Jesus? If so, tell the group the results. Pray as a group for a bold witness as shining lights in our world.