

**Date:** 01.07.2020

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Service taken by:** Rev Gavino Fioretti

**Psalm:** Psalm 40:1-5

**Reading:** John 13:1-30

**Outline: The love of Jesus**

a) Introduction

1. Sovereign

2. Visible

3. Lasting

4. Undeserved

## **The love of Jesus**

- **Introduction**

Jesus knew that the hour of His death had come – the hour for why He came to earth. God in His mercy doesn't tell us what will happen in the future. We wouldn't be able to live knowing when we are going to die. Jesus now knows that He is about to die in John 13. He knew He had to experience the wrath and judgement of God. Jesus knew He was on a mission. He knew the Father had put into His hands the salvation of His people – this comes from the Father. Jesus is referred to as "the servant of the Lord" in Isaiah. He'd come from the Lord and would go back to the Lord – this reminded Him that His suffering and death would be temporary. Jesus knew who would betray Him; one He called "friend". Judas was not far from Jesus at the table – Jesus knew he would betray Him. Jesus knew about Judas, but it didn't stop Jesus from loving Him. Jesus knows those He had chosen in a loving way. This all emphasises the love of Christ.

### **1) Sovereign**

**Christ's character:** His love is sovereign. It is free. It's not based on the object of His love, but comes from His character and attributes. He's compelled to love, because He's loving. He loves His disciples because it's His decision and will to love them.

**Christ's people:** This love is directed to a number of people. There is a sense in which Jesus loves everyone (we see Him weeping over Jerusalem). The love He has for His own is different.

Common grace is shown to the whole world in God caring, protecting and providing food – this extends to all men.

Saving grace brings to eternal life – behind it is this sovereign, special love of Christ. It is rooted in Him and originated from Him. It is directed to people He has chosen to love. For many this is offensive, they think it waters down His love for us that saving grace is for some, not all – it doesn't water down His love at all. Instead, it emphasises the extent of His love that He loves those who don't deserve His love. The love of Jesus for His church is a pattern for husbands loving their wives; the way they love their wives is to be different from any other love. The love of Jesus for His church is unique and for His own. What a privilege to be Christ's own people and to know that He is ours and we are His.

## **2) Visible**

John and the other apostles were aware of Christ's love for them. John experiences Jesus' love for them because the love of Jesus is real and visible, not just words.

**His words:** With words, Jesus showed His love. Jesus said to them, "with desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" – this shows that with the greatest desire, He wished to be with His people. With His words, He showed His disciples that He loved them. He called them friends. He calls us friends.

**His deeds:** The actions of Jesus show His love. John reminds us that Jesus did something unusual and amazing – He washed the feet of his disciples – this was usually done by the lowest of people – Jesus was not ashamed to wash His disciples' feet; He even washed Judas' feet. This was such an act of love. To love someone is to serve someone; you forgive, you help with household work, you work – this is motivated by love for another.

**His prayer:** In John 17, Jesus prays for His disciples and intercedes for them – He honours them with His prayers and wants them to be where He is. His prayer demonstrates His love. When you love someone, you pray for them. It's far easier to pray for someone we know and love than someone we don't.

**His death:** He shows His love for the disciples in dying for them. "He loved them to the end" (this shows the extent in time and the cost of that love). Jesus loves His own and is willing to pour out His soul even unto death for His own.

## **3) Lasting**

Jesus' love is enduring.

**From past:** His love begins before the beginning, before time and before the world was made. Jeremiah says, He loved us "with an everlasting love". He set His affection on His disciples in eternity past and His love endures to the end.

**To the end:** He doesn't love us for a time, but forever. It's immutable love. His love never changes. God never changes. When God loves someone, He loves them despite their good and bad. When you're faithful, He doesn't love you more. When you're unfaithful, He doesn't love you less. His love will last forever. God is above time and not limited to time. His love is eternal, enduring, to the end. We'll enjoy His love forever.

#### **4) Undeserved**

The love of Christ is undeserved. Those loved by God were "in the world" – against God and resisting Him, wanting to be free from His lordship. By nature, we're from the world and enemies of Jesus, separated from Him and at war with Him. But now, we're the object of the love of Christ. Those loved by Jesus don't deserve to be loved by Him. There's nothing lovable in us. The best of our righteous acts are filthy rags. There's nothing beautiful in us. And yet He loves us. Thomas would doubt Him. To the very end, His disciples provoked and disappointed and provoked Him. Yet He loved them to the end. We don't deserve the love of God today. We should be amazed at the love of Christ – He loves us not because of who we are, but because of who He is.

#### **5) Exemplary**

He gives us an example to follow. We are called to love one another and the pattern is Jesus – our love for one another should be visible, costly, unquestioned, unconditional love. That's what Jesus commands. Sometimes when we think of His commands, we think of the technicalities of the 10 commandments – but we need to think of love with this – the first four commandments are about loving God, the next 6 about loving others. We need to love one another as Jesus has loved us. This is the challenge and standard set before us. It's impossible for us, but we have the Spirit of God in us. We can't love other people more; we need the Spirit to show us how much Jesus has loved us and to fill us with the love of God. We can be a channel of God's love. We've no love in ourselves – it's all from God. We need His love and grace to show His love in a visible way.