

CAUTION

The Trinity@ Work

Jesus confides in his disciples

**What would you do if you knew that
you were going to die in a week's
time?**



**Who would you spend that week
with?**



**What would you say in order to
prepare your family and friends for
your departure?**



**Jesus spent His last days with His
disciples**

Why?

John 13:

¹It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. (NIV 1984) *[he loved them to the end]*

Throughout the entire history of redemption, all three Persons of the Trinity have constantly been at work together, in perfect unity; and yet, in the different eras, the work of one of these Persons has come more to the forefront. Before Christ came, the **Father's** work was in the forefront, as he sovereignly worked all things out for the coming of the King. After **Christ's incarnation**, his own work of purchasing redemption for us was obviously at the forefront. And after this marvellous redemption was indeed accomplished, the ministry of the **Spirit**, in teaching men of Christ and opening their hearts to the knowledge of him.

Jesus spent His last days with His disciples

- Jesus demonstrates his love (John 13)
- Gave instructions: Love one another (John 13:31-34)
- Promises not to leave them as 'orphans' (John 14-16)
- He prays comfort, unity, protection & commission (John 17)

John 13:

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the **Father** had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

1- Jesus demonstrates how much he loves them

Jesus' identity in relation to the Father

...because of his secure identity in the Father

...because he knew who he was and where he had come from

- Jesus takes on the role of a Gentile slave

John 13:

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

The disciples are to pass on the same teaching that he, their teacher and Lord, has done by conveying as he has, both in word and deed, the selfless love of God.

The community Jesus has brought into being is to manifest the love of God that he has revealed through serving one another with no vestige of pride or position.

There will be recognized positions of leadership within the new community, but the exercise of leadership is to follow this model of servanthood.

2- Love one another

John 13: ³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. ³³ “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. ³⁴ **“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another**

“The new thing appears to be the mutual affection that Christians have for one another on account of Christ’s great love for them. A community has been created on the basis of Jesus’ work for us and there is a new relationships within that community”. (L Morris1995)

3- I will not leave you as ‘orphans’

John 14: ¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ **I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**

²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things (*all that you need to know*) and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Persecution

John 16 ¹“All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. ² They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. ³ They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴ I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, ⁵ but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’

⁶ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. ⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

“...there is a better education in discipleship than that which can be supplied by a visible master, whose will for his disciples can never be misunderstood.

The braver and more perfect disciple is he who can walk by faith, and not by sight only...” (JH Bernard; 1928)

4- He prays comfort, unity, protection & commission

John 17:

⁶ “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

Marks of a disciple-

⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

- **Accepted** Christ's words
- **Received** that Christ was divine and came from God
- In faith they **believed** that the Father sent Jesus

Knowledge converted to faith!

John 17:

¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, **protect them** by the power of your name, the name you gave me, **so that they may be one as we are one.**

¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified

• **Jesus has commissioned us**

• **For us Jesus died- to sanctify us!**

It's your turn!

- How are you modelling love towards others?
What example do you demonstrate?
- What 'life giving' instructions would you leave before you die?
- How would you pray for those you are leaving?