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**Sermon: *“The Loving Lord in the Shadow of the Cross”***

**Scripture: John 13:21-38**

Pastor Stephen Schultze

Sunday, May 13, 2018

**Introduction:**

Jesus loved His disciples to the end. Part of loving them included preparing them for what was to come. A troubling betrayal, a “new” command and a sobering warning led to drama, passion and fear in the upper room:

1. **Jesus Revealed a Troubling Betrayal in the Final Hour** *(v. 21-30)*

*In the unfolding drama of the upper room we find...*

1. ***The Troubled Lord.*** *(v. 21)*

***Scripture:*** *Psalm 41:7-9*

1. ***The Disturbed Disciples.*** *(v. 22-25; Mark 14:19)*

*C.* ***The Unrepentant Betrayer.*** *(v. 26-30)*

***Judas had two paths forward prior to this moment:***

1. ***Humble Repentance leading to life.*** *(2 Corinthians 7:9-10a)*
2. ***Hardened Desire leading to death.*** *(2 Corinthians 7:10b; Romans 1:24; 26; 28)*

***As long as we live, we sin. As long as we sin, we must repent!***

1. **Jesus Issued a New Commandment for His Departure.** *(v. 31-35)*

How is this a “new” command?

1. **There is a new standard for love….Christ’s Love.**

***Scripture:*** *Ephesians 5:25-28; 1 John 4:7-12*

* Christ’s love is an **identifying love.** *(1 John 4:7-8, 12)*
* Christ’s love is an **unconditional love.** *(1 John 4:10a, 11, 19)*
* Christ’s love is a **generous love**. *(1 John 4:9)*
* Christ’s love is a **self-sacrificing love.** *(1 John 4:10b)*
1. **There is a new community to love….Christ’s Church.**

***Scripture:*** *Ephesians 5:2; 1 Peter 1:22*

**A love that knows no limits is to be the mark of Christ’s people in community!**

1. **Jesus Issued Sobering Warnings for His Beloved Follower. (v. 36-38)**
2. **Peter would follow the Lord in death, but later.**
* The path (and cost) of discipleship is not determined by the disciple, but the Master.
1. **Peter would deny the Lord the next morning.**
* The self-assured will assuredly fall. The God-dependent will surely endure.

***Scripture:*** *Proverbs 16:18-19; 11:2; 1 Corinthians 10:12-13;**Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 5:5-6*

**Conclusion:**

1. As believers we are to be a God-dependent & sin-repenting people, living in a community of overflowing love.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. In what ways do we witness Christ’s love in John 13?
2. What does John include in his account that captures the reality of that night? How is that helpful to us today?
3. What IS repentance and WHY do we resist it so much? What are the dangers of resisting repentance or faking it?
4. How is Christ’s example of love so much different from how we naturally love?
5. Why is Christ-like love not just about “trying harder”? What ought to motivate Christ-like love in the life of every believer?
6. How ought Jesus’ warnings to Peter cause us to assess our lives and thinking?
7. How can we seek to diminish deadly pride in our lives?