

The STORY - Week Twenty-Six

April 9, 2017

Love Without Limit

JOHN 13:1-15

Jesus, though conscious of His own greatness, thus humbled Himself. He laid aside His garments, that part of them which would have hindered Him in His service. If thou dost not submit to My will, thou hast no part with Me. Thou art not My disciple. In every way possible, we are to assist each other in attaining purity; to perform all sorts of good offices to each other, even those of the lowest kind, when opportunity serves, and the necessity of any calls for them — John Wesley (1754).

You must have the same attitude as Christ Jesus. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. Philippians 2:5-7

Working on a larger level, however, this discourse ought to remind us that Jesus has laid down His life for the disciples. As those who know how Jesus is going to be glorified, we know that Jesus' love and humility do not stop at servanthood. His love and humility reach to the point of death, even death on a cross. When Jesus tells the disciples they are to love one another as He has loved them, the early hearers should know that they are to love one another by laying their lives down for one another. What is more, Jesus' command contains a missional implication. He says, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Why should the disciples have concern that others know that they are his disciples except that they are to continue His mission - Ryan Quanstrom (2016)?

Next week: Resurrection Day!

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FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

Three things to understand:

1) Jesus applied Passover to Himself.

Jesus is the Passover Lamb. His Body, His Blood.

2) Jesus' time had come.

Passover, the washing of feet, crucifixion.

3) Jesus the Shepherd loved and laid down His life.

He laid aside His glory and served.

Washing disciples feet showed Who God was and is.

Jesus gave us a pattern to copy.

Christ-likeness does the little, annoying, messy...

...things we secretly hope someone else will do.

Jesus walks around and loves while wearing your skin.

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