



Calvary of Albuquerque

A Night Unforgettable - John 13:1-5

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

Some days are frozen in time because of the magnitude of an event. You will always remember September 11, 2001 and where you were when the towers fell. The night America bombed Baghdad or the night John Lennon was murdered may be permanent memories captured in your mind. This was the final night Jesus spent with His own disciples and it would be unforgettable. Let's discover how what seem like ordinary moments can be extraordinary appointments.

OUTLINE

- I. It Was Framed by a Sense of Timing
- II. It Focused on a Private Gathering
- III. It Featured an Act of Serving
- IV. It Was Filled with Shades of Meaning
- V. It Was Fouled by Sinful Plotting



Pondering the Principles:

1. How have you discovered that God's timing is better than your own? Can you think of a specific instance?
2. Who can you be a servant to this week—some person that you could assist by performing an act of kindness in the name of Christ?
3. What humble task around the home is especially difficult for you to do? Why? What does Jesus' example here do to change your behavior?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Some days are ordinary, some are important
 - B. Passover Meal "What makes this night different from all other nights?"
 1. Part of the liturgy
 2. Remember the lamb slain in Egypt, the blood, and the deliverance from bondage
 - C. Last Supper Meal
 1. Disciples have spent many meals with Jesus
 2. At least two previous Passovers
 3. This night would be different from all other nights, a night they would remember
 - D. John uses chapters 13-17, and part of chapter 18 to record events of this single night
 - E. Upper Room Discourse
 1. John alone records the information
 2. Jesus unfolds His heart to His disciples and trains them
 - F. We may not know a time is special at the moment—"Normal day, let me be aware of the treasure you are. Let me learn from you, love you, bless you before you depart. Let me not pass you by in quest of some rare and perfect tomorrow. Let me hold you while I may, for it may not always be so. One day I shall dig my nails into the earth, or bury my face in the pillow, or stretch myself taut, or raise my hands to the sky and want, more than all the world, your return." -Mary Jean Irion
- II. It Was Framed by a Sense of Timing
 - A. Special Time - Passover
 1. Jews gathered in Jerusalem
 - a. One of three mandatory feasts that those nearby must observe in Jerusalem
 - i. Wanted to be there
 - ii. "Next year in Jerusalem!"
 - b. pesach - Passover
 - c. Josephus records 256,000 lambs slain during the era; 2.75 million people in Jerusalem
 2. The lamb was slain, roasted, and the people shared a meal to celebrate their deliverance from bondage
 3. This group was celebrating something different

- a. The Lamb was at the table with them
 - b. "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)
 - B. "His hour" had come (phrase used six times in Gospel of John)
 1. "My hour has not yet come" (John 2:4)
 2. "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." (John 7:6-8)
 3. "His hour had not yet come" (John 8:20)
 4. "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified." (John 12:23)
 5. "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour." (John 12:27)
 6. "Jesus knew that His hour had come" (John 13:1)
 - C. The gospel record
 1. 89 chapters total in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
 2. 85 of those focus on the last 3.5 years of Jesus' life on earth
 3. 29 of those focus on the final week
 4. 13 of those focus on the final 24 hours
 5. 579 verses zero in on "the hour"
 - D. "Cut the Bible anywhere and it will bleed."—Graham Scroggie
 - E. We celebrate the day of crucifixion, Good Friday, because of the result: forgiveness
 - F. Make the celebration of the cross a priority. "In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'" (1 Corinthians 11:25)
- III. It Focused on a Private Gathering
- A. Having loved "His own"
 1. The twelve apostles: His closest friends, the intimate disciples
 2. Private meeting with a close group of friends behind closed doors
 - a. Like a coach gathering the team before a game
 - b. Like a general gathering soldiers before battle
 - B. Jesus is training His disciples in John 14-17
 - C. Why would Jesus spend his last moments with the disciples? After all, they are already saved.
 1. Evangelism is the disciples' job
 2. Jesus job to train and equip them to go do it
 - a. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)
 - b. "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'" (Matthew 9:35-38)
 - c. "And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. These twelve Jesus sent out" (Matthew 10:1-5)
 3. We are saved, disciplined, and turned loose
 - D. Learn to live by a sense of divine timing
 1. Mordecai to Esther: "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14)
 2. "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12)
 3. If you are 40 years old, you have 500 days left to live as you wish
 - a. 25 years of life spent sleeping
 - b. 18-25 years spent working
 - c. 8 years of television
 - E. Make your time count -
 1. "Redeeming the time," (Ephesians 5:16)
 2. "Guard well your spare moments. They are like uncut diamonds. Discard them and their value will never be known. Improve them and they will become the brightest gems in a useful life."— Ralph Waldo Emerson
- IV. It Featured an Act of Serving
- A. Jesus washed the apostles' feet
 1. Hot weather, open sandals, no paved roads or sidewalks; dirty feet
 2. Entrance to most homes had a pot of water at the door and a servant to wash feet
 3. Private room lent for Passover
 - B. Disciples were arguing about who was the greatest. (See Luke 22:24)
 - C. Any of the apostles could have washed the feet, but Jesus did it
 - D. Jesus "loved His own" (showed them the full extent of His love)
 - E. Jesus knew he had all power, authority, came from heaven, going to heaven, yet He washed feet
 1. If you know who you are, you don't have to prove who you are to anyone else: your identity equals your security.
 2. Jesus knew who He was and that enabled Him to freely love others.
 - F. Who is hard to love, serve, forgive?
 - G. At peace with your past, secure in your future, free to love in the present
- V. It Was Filled with Shades of Meaning
- A. Showed them the full extent of His love.

- B. Jesus is acting in parable form what is coming.
 1. Rose from supper - got up from heaven to come to earth
 2. Laid aside garments - emptied Himself
 3. Took towel and girded Himself - Jesus, though deity, wrapped divinity in a towel of humanity
 4. Pored the water and washed feet - He would pour his blood to wash away sin
 5. Wipe with a towel and dry their feet - When Jesus starts something, He finishes it. "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;" (Philippians 1:6)

VI. It Was Fouled by Sinful Plotting

- A. The devil came to dinner
- B. Judas is a contrast to Jesus
 1. Jesus made an act of sacrifice; Judas an act of selfishness
 2. Jesus thought of everyone but Self; Judas thought of no one but self
 3. Jesus gives; Judas takes
- C. Contrast the devil's philosophy and Jesus' philosophy
 1. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:5-8)
 2. "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'" (Isaiah 14:12-14)
- D. Never more like Jesus than when you serve; Never more like the devil than when you refuse to serve and want to be seen and rule
- E. God has the last word:
 1. "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2: 9-11)+
 2. "Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit." (Isaiah 14:15)

VII. Application

- A. Learn to place more value on personal relationships
- B. Capture spare moments -
"Seize the moment. Remember all those women on the Titanic who waved off the dessert cart." -Erma Bombeck
- C. Use your power to serve
 1. When servants serve it is what is expected; when leaders serve it is profound
 2. When asked the hardest instrument to play, Leonard Bernstein replied, "Second fiddle. I can get plenty of first violinists, but to find someone who plays second violin with enthusiasm is difficult. Yet, if no one plays second fiddle, we have no harmony."

Hebrew Terms: pesach - Passover

Figures Referenced: Mary Jean Irion; Josephus; Graham Scroggie; Ralph Waldo Emerson; Erma Bombeck; Leonard Bernstein;

Cross References: Esther 4:14; Psalm 90:12; Isaiah 14:12-14; Isaiah 14:15; Matthew 4:19; Matthew 9:35-38; Matthew 10:1-5; Luke 22:24; John 1:29; John 2:4; John 7:6-8; John 8:20; John 12:23; John 12:27; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Ephesians 5:16; Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:5-8; Philippians 2:9-11