

“A Greater Love”
By Jesse Rairdon
Sunday, October 29th, 2017

Amen.

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Father, as we go into this portion of our message, Lord, I pray that you would bless me, a sinner. Lord, you know all my sins; touch now my lips that the words that I speak be pure, that I may administer grace to the hearers, that we all may be edified in Jesus name. Amen.

Two points I want to talk about today is, “What's New About Love?” Jesus said, “A new commandment I give unto you.” What's new about love? And the second point is, “Show Love, Don't Just Know Love.” Show love, don't just know love.

So, what is new about love? Why is Jesus making this new commandment at this time in His life? Didn't He teach them about love already? Wasn't He with them for three years of His life? Why is this different, now? Why is this commandment coming forth now?

To answer this question, look at the timeline of events. Jesus was coming to the end of the time in His ministry, the end of His time with the disciples, those who were closest with Him. This was precious time. Time would be very valuable, very, very close; very, very—communion was just dealing, this was time. Think about family, when they gather together, as a loved one is getting to pass, those precious moments which you have left with them. Think about that time. This is the time that Jesus with His closest family, His closest friends. He had just told them that one of them was going to betray Him. Imagine that, bringing that up for a dinner topic, chew on that for a moment. After all they'd been through together. They left everyone and everything they had in life to follow Him, yet they gained so much more, they just didn't realize it, yet. John, chapter thirteen, beginning at verse eighteen, after He said someone is going to betray Him:

John 13:18-35 *I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen:* [He knew who He was talking to.] *but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. [Maybe if I talk to the person closest to Jesus, I can find out who He's talking about.] He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night. [And then comes these*

words:] *Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

See, if you understand that Judas was to have no part of this commandment, is why the timing of it. The level of commitment that Jesus was saying, Judas had no part in this. Jesus wants total commitment. Total commitment and love here. This is why this is new, now, because He's saying, "If I give you the example..."—like Kirk was talking about with sacrifice—"I am going to give my life for you, so that others can see that I died for you, now you've got to do that for each other, you've got to have that level of commitment for each other. Jesus wanted them to have a greater love. And John, fifteen, verse thirteen, says:

John 15:13-17 *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another.*

You see, the love was not new, it's just the level, the standard, the bar was set a little bit higher, a lot higher, by example. This is a greater love; this greater love will cause me to put aside my own desires, put aside my own wants put aside my own passions, and say, "What does someone else need today?" Though I may be tired or in pain, they may need my help today. If that's your home, your family; if it's someone who needs some food, like brother Malcolm shared, you show the love. On the last day we're going to be judged by how we showed love, not on how we knew the Scriptures. Yes, it's good to know the Scriptures. When He gathers everybody, He's going to separate the sheep from the goats—that's going to be your homework; look up that Scripture—and, He sets the sheep on the right side and the goats on the left. And, on the right side, He didn't say, "Well, because you preached so many sermons, you taught so many Bible studies, because you knew the Bible in and out..." No, He said, "Because you went and did this, and you did this to the least of these, you did it unto me." So, how we show that love is how we're going to be judged. So, show love, don't just know love. First John, chapter three. The same person who wrote that. Book that we were just sharing from, John, wrote this letter, later. He has a great understanding of this commandment. Because, if you look at the four Gospels, nobody really broke down this commandment. So, he breaks a little further down in this letter. In first John, chapter three, verse fourteen:

1 John 3:14-24 *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his*

commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

So, when the call comes out, or the text comes out, we show our love. Someone's in the hospital, we go visit them. Someone's in need of, maybe work on their house, we go help them, we swing the hammer. Someone's car breaks down, we go pick them up, we help them. Someone needs help with their starter, we go fix it their starter. All these needs have been brought before the church this morning. That's how we show our love. And, when we go out to there for the Feed My Starving Children, as someone had mentioned, people help, it isn't so much—we're always going to have the poor, were always going to have starving children, but how people see the love one to another. That's the testimony that's going to bring people to Jesus, amen? So, don't just tell people you love them, show them we love them.

A few weeks ago, I was asked to go to my daughter's class and observe her. But, she was told in advance, and I was told in advance, that we were not allowed to speak to each other. She was just to set her work in front of her—she is three and a half years old; now get this, this is hard for a toddler to do this—and do her work. And, I would sit there in silence, and observe, and take notes, and see how she does, and performs each of these acts. So, it's kind of like that: God wants us to perform our actions, not just talk about them. Show your love one to another. The last verse before brother Ken comes up: First Timothy, chapter one, verse five.

1 Timothy 1:5 *Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:*

I'm going to bet on faith. Amen.