

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

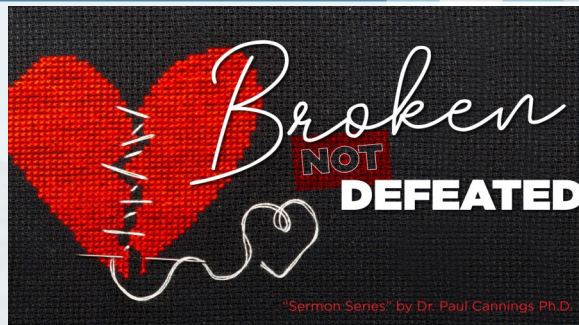
March 21, 2021

Relationships can be difficult to the point that we do everything we can to avoid them. We do our best to find people that we “click” with rather than interacting with anyone God puts in our path. I believe this is what Christ had in mind when He said to “love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39; neighbor means anyone in close proximity). Loving our neighbor seems to mean, in our culture those we click with, because other relationships can cause too much pain, but Christ says He blesses these circumstances more (Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:9-21).



Two porcupines in Northern Canada huddled together to get warm, according to a forest folktale. But their quills pricked each other, so they moved apart. Before long they were shivering, so they slid close again. Soon both were getting jabbed again. Same story; same ending. They needed each other, but they kept needling each other. Relationships can be painful, but a person survives better, and grows more when pain directs them to a deeper commitment to obey God (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12). “By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandment...; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.....” (1 John 2:3-6)

Two little teardrops were floating down the river. One teardrop asked the other, “Who are you?” The second teardrop replied, “I’m from a woman who lost her lover. And you?” The first teardrop said, “I’m from the woman who got him?” (Michael Green, Illustrations for Biblical Preaching) In a “Peanuts” cartoon, Lucy says to Snoopy: “There are times when you really bug me, but I must admit there are also times when I feel like giving you a big hug.” Snoopy replies: “That’s the way I am ... huggable and buggable” (Robert L. Short, Parables of Peanuts). Christ can be huggable when He blesses us, but when He seems quiet and unresponsive to our concerns He seems “buggable,” especially when He says; “love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you... Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.” (Luke 6:27-31) Christ says this because He is seeking to reward us and strengthen us, all at the same time. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? But love your enemies, and do good, ; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.” (Luke 6:28-36; NASU) Pain can either grow us or harden us; growing is always better (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-9).



UPCOMING Events

NEXT STEPS

New Members Classes

The New Member Orientation Class has resumed each **Sunday**, from **8am - 12pm**, Legacy Fellowship Hall (*in person*). **Online** classes will be at the same time.

Please follow these steps:

- Step 1: Go to church’s website www.lwfellowshipchurch.org
- Step 2: Click menu bar (top-right corner)
- Step 3: Click on Resource Center
- Step 4: Scroll to the bottom, click membership interest
- Step 5: Download “New Members Manual”



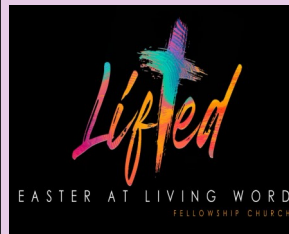
Silver Star Faith Fitness Conference

Faith Fitness and Silver Stars have partnered together to define physical and spiritual wellness in God for seniors! Join the conversation on **March 27th @ 10am** for tips on eating, exercise, and purpose with coach Deanna, because excellence looks good on you!



Men’s Ministry Virtual Fellowship

Thank you for joining us on yesterday for our Men’s Ministry Conference. We pray that you were benefited and will attend our next meeting virtually on **April 17th** at 9:00am. Please read Chapter 6 of the “Kingdom Agenda” by Tony Evans.



Easter at Living Word

JOIN US as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! This **3-day event** will be full of many activities for the entire family!! From the **DYNAMIC Good Friday Service and Worship & Arts Live Production on Fri., April 2nd**, **The Good News Festival on Sat., April 3rd** all the way to the powerful worship and inspiring message on **Sun., April 4th**. This Easter will be one to remember!

Visit the church’s website or social media for more information at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events

Donations Needed: Please donate candy filled eggs for our festival or contact Sylvia Edwards for more information.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

The Word of God

“The Inner Circle”

John 12:4-8; John 13:2; John 13:10-15

Pierre Cannings, Assistant Pastor

Sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

Click on the “Media” tab and click “Sermon Outline”

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction & Closing Song

Soft launch for the return of Children’s Church is in progress. Children must be picked up **immediately** at the conclusion of each service.

LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 3:45 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY
6:30 PM

The Inner Circle

John 12:4-8; John 13:2; John 13:10-15

A. Bad Intention (John 12:4-8):

1. One of His Disciples
 - a. Judas
 - The term “the Twelve” designates the inner circle of the disciples of Jesus. It occurs once in Paul, eleven times in Mark, eight times in Matthew, nine times in Luke-Acts, and four times in John. Judas’ attachment to this group has posed theological problems since antiquity
 - b. Disciple - one who is rather constantly associated with someone who has a pedagogical reputation or a particular set of views, disciple, adherent
 - But from the shocking force of their hindsight. It is as if they cannot recollect anything he said and did without also remembering that he was the one who ultimately betrayed the Lord of Glory
 - His general behavior was probably not different either; he evidently heard the words of the Savior, saw the miracles, and performed the various responsibilities of the disciples. According to John 12:5–6; 13:29, his penury as treasurer of the group was tempered by greed and theft. Indeed, greed prompted Judas to go to the chief priests and bargain with them for the betrayal of Jesus (Matt. 26:14–16 par.).
2. Bad Intentions
 - a. Intending - propose, have in mind
 - b. Betray- hand over, turn over, give up a person
3. Symptoms
 - a. Not Concerned about the Poor
 - Concern - it is a care/concern, is of interest
 - With Judas Iscariot, the case is far worse: his personal greed for material things masquerades as altruism.
 - In this story John makes it plain that Judas was not an unfortunate, misguided person. He was inherently an evil thief who had no concern for the poor
 - b. Thief
 - Pilfer- *take surreptitiously (secretly), pilfer, steal*

B. Heart of the Betrayer - John 13:2-3

1. Heart of the Betrayer - John 13:2-3
 - a. The Setting
 - The disciples whose feet he was about to wash include Judas Iscariot, son of Simon (cf. Additional Note), whose treacherous plot had already been conceived.
 - b. Devil already put into the heart
 - Put- to lay, inspire, mediate
 - ◊Put- the genitive of Judas (Iouda) that sanctions such a rendering. The idea, then, is not that Judas was not responsible, for a heart incited by Satan actually wills what the devil wills (Schlatter, p. 279); rather, the plot against Jesus, however mediated by wicked human beings, was nothing less than satanic.
 - ◊Either way, the devil and Judas are now in a conspiracy of evil to bring Jesus to the cross, a conspiracy fleshed out

◊ The heart that is inspired by the devil wills what the devil wills (cf. also 13:18, 21, 27).¹⁸ Some manuscripts read “the heart of Judas” (the genitive Iouda), but the nominative Ioudas here is to be preferred.

◊ Building upon the statements concerning Jesus’ knowledge of his hour in v. 1, the evangelist expands the idea here to remind the reader that Jesus was clearly knowledgeable about his origin and his goal or destiny.

C. One of You - John 13:10-15

1. You are clean
 - a. Clean -to being clean or free of adulterating matter, clean, pure
 - Emphasizes the superiority of the new covenant to the old. It uses the concept of purity in this connection. In contrast with the older ritual purity, the new moral purity is true and perfect purity power of blood is maintained (9:22).
 - It is a basic thesis that the disciples of Jesus are clean (15:3; 13:10). According to the Gospel the disciples are clean because of their life-association with Jesus (15:3). His Word causes His Spirit, His higher divine mode of life, to enter into them effectively.
 - A preferable interpretation is that after salvation all one needs is confession of sins, the continual application of Jesus’ death to cleanse one’s daily sins (cf. 1 John 1:7; 2:1–2).
 - In Jn. 13 the foot-washing has two meanings. On the one hand it is a parabolic action (6–11), on the other an example (12–17). The former sense expresses the fact that the full bath of baptism accomplishes full cleansing.
 - The purity of the NT community is personal and moral by nature. It consists in full and unreserved self-offering to God which renews the heart and rules out any acceptance of what is against God.
 - Those who are pure in heart in this way are called to participate in the kingdom of God, Mt. 5:8. This purity of heart is far above the cleanness of hands which was so greatly valued by the Pharisees. It alone counts before God.
 - When he says that the sinner must cleanse his hands and sanctify his heart if he is truly to draw near to God
2. Not all of You
 - a. Moreover, the text itself here indicates that Jesus was not confused about the status of the betrayer who was present at this event (13:11). The Johannine message has consistently been clear on the fact that although people like Peter and Judas may not have understood the implications of events, it is absolutely certain that Jesus understood what people were like (cf. 2:23–25). What surprised people did not surprise Jesus.
 - b. The reason why he now takes the pains to show that inclusion of Judas was not an oversight or a sign of weakness on his part is so that their faith might be strengthened for the critical hour.

D. Still Washed John 13:10-14

1. It is precisely because their Lord and Teacher (note the reversal here of the order)⁴³ was willing to adopt the humbling model of foot washing that Jesus’ disciples cannot treat humility as merely a nice idea that is unrelated to Christian life.
2. The first application used the foot-washing to symbolize Christ’s atoning, cleansing death; this second application makes the points just elucidated; the third and final application teaches lessons in humility.
3. Therefore the servant/follower of Jesus should realize that the self-giving washing of feet may be far more costly a calling than merely a matter involving a basin of water and a towel.
4. Even though the famine had five more years left Joseph committed to providing their families with all the food they need.

PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Robert James & family, Renessa Matthews & family, Debra Gaines & family, Diana Horn & family, Lee White & family, Roslyn Grimes & family, Mary Wheatley and Carol Dickerson & family, Patricia Moore & family, Linda Harrison & family, and Judy Times & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bull-ock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Debra Gaines, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, and Janice Brown.

THE INNER CIRCLE

JOHN 12:4-8;
JOHN 13:2; JOHN 13:10-15