

Sample H.E.A.R. Journal

DATE: August 9, 2015

READING: John 13

TITLE: To Love Is To Serve

(H) - HIGHLIGHT: Underline, highlight, or copy the main verse or two from the chapter you felt led to study further from your weekly Bible reading.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35 (ESV) Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciple's feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. John 13:5 (ESV)

(E) - EXPLAIN: In a few sentences, describe the biblical author's intended meaning for the text based on the immediate and broader contexts of Scripture.

Before Jesus spoke about sacrificial love, He showed it by washing the feet of His most faithful followers. By taking on a task deemed too dirty even for Hebrew slaves, Jesus provided them with a picture of what it really looked like to love. With this example fresh upon their minds, Jesus moved from illustration to instruction, teaching them that the same sacrificial love He had just shown them, they were now to show to others. Significant in this story is the fact that Jesus washed the feet, not just of the men who would make up the leadership of His church, but also of Judas, the man who, moments later, would sell Him out for several pieces of silver. Although the weight of this wouldn't be felt until later, the disciples discovered that real love doesn't recognize a face as 'friend' or 'foe'; but instead, focuses on washing the feet of all for the glory of Jesus (by this all people will know that you are my disciples).

(A) - APPLY: How is the Lord leading you to live out the text based on the key verses and meaning of the chapter?

It's simple to string together our own definitions of love and feel as though we are doing His work, when in reality, we aren't. In this passage, Jesus made it clear that the depth of our love is revealed in the degree to which we serve. If we are to love others like our Lord we must leave the comfort of the table to take up the towel of sacrificial service. When we find ourselves at the feet of others we find ourselves near to Jesus!

(R) - RESPOND: Share your response to what you have heard from the Lord through His Word.

Lord Jesus, help me to love others as You have loved me. In the ultimate act of love, You offered Yourself on the cross in my place. Make me more mindful of the cross, that I might be moved to surrender my pride daily. May I decrease, so that You may increase and through Your Spirit fill me with the strength to serve others.