

John 13:1

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

“Jesus Loved Them unto the End”

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INTRO:

John the apostle clearly demonstrated that nothing about our Lord Christ's death was accidental. This why when he entered into the transition to the hours before the crucifixion, one thing he underlined was that the Lord Jesus absolutely knew what was ahead. The cross and resurrection colored everything that we will be studying.

There are two things John made clear about our Lord in the hours before the cross.

I. What He Knew and When He Knew it.

II. What He Did.

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“Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.” John 13:1

A. John opened the Upper Room Discourse with a clear statement showing that Jesus fully understood what was going on. *“Before the Passover when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father.”*

B. First John told us was when Jesus knew everything that would happen. He knew it before any of the events transpired. He knew before the Passover meal and before the Lord, Himself, laid down His life as our Passover. *1 Corinthians 5:7“For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”* He already knew what would happen and was willing to go to the

cross for us. He was never a victim or a martyr. He was always *"the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"* John 10:11.

C. The second thing John recorded was what Jesus knew. *"Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father."* There were two things that Jesus knew.

1. First, He understood that His hour had come. There is a very obvious change in the Gospel of John that takes place in the end of John 12. Before John 12 we read verses like *chapter 2:3-4 "When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does this have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.'" and chapter 8:20 "These words [Jesus] spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; but no one arrested Him, because His hour had not yet come."*

(1). But now everything has changed. The moment in God's divine calendar has arrived. In *Galatians 4:4-5* we find a very significant verse. The Apostle Paul wants us to know that everything God does in the "Unfolding Drama of Redemption" has been scheduled on His divine datebook before the world began. *"When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."*

(2). In *John 12:23*, the tone of John's Gospel is transformed. *"Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.'" Did you hear the difference? A few verses later we listened as our Lord said. "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.' Then a voice came from heaven: 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'" John 12:27-28.*

2. Second, He knew the whole picture. "Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father." He understood God's plan of the ages. He knew He would die, but that was not the end of the story. He would rise from the dead. He would ascend to the Father. Someday He will return for us.

D. So, before then Lord Jesus says anything or takes any action in these hours before the cross, John wants us to know unequivocally that Jesus already knew all things. He knew the cross was coming and He did this knowing what He was doing. We must never forget this.

II. What He Did

A. In view of what He knew, what did Jesus do? *"Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."* The NIV indulges in some paraphrasing here, still I think you get a feel of what John was trying to say. *"He now showed them the full extent of His love."* The actual Greek word is telos, which means the completion, the end, unto the uttermost, or eternally. He loved those people who belonged to Him in the present and He will never stop loving them or us.

B. How did He love them in that time? (1) He provided for them. Remember the feeding of the five thousand? (2) He prayed for them. We see that in the mountain when they were on the Sea of Galilee. We also hear this in the Lord's Prayer in John 17. (3) He also taught them the words of life. Remember the lessons in Samaria with the woman at the well. He told them He was the light of the world in John 8-9. He promised He was the resurrection and the life in John 11:23-26 and then demonstrated it in the raising of Lazarus. He spent time with these disciples turning them into Apostles that would win the world for Him.

C. How would He love them forever? First and foremost, He will die for them. *"For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."* 2 Corinthians 5:21

1. And He will rise from the dead for them and someday He will come for them a second time. *"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words."* 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

2. He will do this for us also. Romans 8:31-32 says, *"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"*

D. This statement demands two responses from us. First, are you and I one of His? Have we entered into a relationship with Him by faith? *John 1:12* is particularly applicable here. *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."*

Second, do we live our lives in the awareness that He loved us, loves us, and will love us to the uttermost?

237 We Shall Behold Him