

EFCDP SERMON NOTES • March 17, 2024

Series: *One Small Step # 2*

“The Ultimate Apologetic” • John 13:21-35

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The Big Idea: *Loving those who least deserve it reveals Jesus to the world.*

**1. The true measure of love is how we treat those who don't love us. Vv. 21-30**

**2. Our mission is to bring God glory by loving others like Jesus did. Vv. 31-33**

**3. Our most powerful witness is loving like Jesus. Vv. 34-35**

# *Digging Deeper*

A guide for personal and small group study for the week of March 17, 2023.



→ Was any part of the message unclear? Which aspect of the message do you think will be the most challenging to apply to your own life?

→ Do you agree with the “big idea” of this passage? Why or why not?

1. If you watched the television show, “Cheers,” who was your favorite character? How would you describe the quality of the relationships in that bar? What felt needs do you think draw people to spend time in such places?

• Do you think unchurched people think of the typical church as a place that would exhibit the positive aspects of the Cheers bar—“a place where people are always glad you came?” Why or why not?

2. Think about the people you know at work, school, or in your neighborhood. How many of them do you think exhibit signs of loneliness?

3. A recent Gallup poll of 142 countries found that the loneliest group of people are young adults (27% of those aged 19-29), and that the majority of adults under age 45 are lonely. Why do you think young adults, who have so many things going for them, tend to be so lonely?

4. What can Christians do to help lonely people?

5. How often do you experience some degree of loneliness?  
\_\_\_ Rarely \_\_\_ A few times yearly \_\_\_ Often \_\_\_ Daily

6. What are some ways you address your loneliness that you have found to be helpful?

- What are some ways you have found to be ineffective?

7. Do the unbelievers you personally know think of churches as being filled with loving people? Why or why not?

8. What impact do church splits and lawsuits between (presumed) believers have on perceptions of Christians by the unchurched?

9. What do you think is the most important thing for people to find when they visit our church?

10. How important is it for people in a local church to develop friendships with fellow members outside of church programs? Why or why not?

11. Why do you think Jesus chose Judas to be one of the twelve original disciples, when he knew exactly what Judas would do?

12. In John 13:21, Jesus tells the disciples that one of them would betray him. Why do you think the disciples did not realize Jesus was referring to Judas? How could they miss it? What does this indicate about relationships in the local church?

13. Read the following passages, noting the similarities and differences between them:

- 1 John 2:7-11

- 1 John 3:11-18
- 1 John 4:7-21
- 1 John 5:1-5

14. After Judas left the Upper Room, John adds the detail, “And it was night.” Do you think this has spiritual significance? (See: John 3:18-21; 8:12; 12:35 and 46.) Why or why not?

15. What do the following passages reveal about Judas?

- John 6:64-71
- John 13:10-11
- John 13:18 and 17:12
- Matthew 26:24

16. In John 13:18, Jesus quoted Psalm 41:9, in which David referred to Ahithophel, who joined Absalom’s rebellion (2 Sam. 15-17).

What parallels do you see between these passages?

- 2 Samuel 17:23
- Matthew 27:3-10
- Acts 1:18

17. What do the following passages teach about how we can produce the love Jesus commanded us to have?

- Ezekiel 36:24-26
- Acts 2:42-47
- Galatians 5:22

18. What kind of people do you personally have the most difficulty showing love? Why do you think this is?

19. Take a moment, and asking God to search your heart, revealing the people He most urgently wants you to show love. Write their names here:

20. What are two things our church could do to encourage people to show more genuine love to one another? What could you do in the next two weeks to help make this a reality?