SLIGO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Discipleship 201

Session 2: *The Three Things Jesus Knew*

John 13:1-5

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **2** The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. **3** Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; **4** so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. **5** After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Breaking it Down:
The disciple John was with Jesus from the beginning and then lived a long life, growing in His walk with God. Now, as an old man, he looks back on Jesus' life and sees so much more than he realized when it actually happened. After decades of reflection and walking with God, this is what John wants you to know.

Jesus "loved them to the end (*telos* in the Greek)." The Greek word, *telos*, means "the completion of a definite point or goal."

John begins this last supper letting us know that Jesus loved us all the way to the end—til his last drop of blood and his last gasp for breath. This supper is the beginning of the end for Jesus. These are his final acts, his final words, and all of them show his radical, unselfish, immeasurable love for humanity!

And not just his love for the "good ones," Jesus is about to humble himself and wash his betrayer's feet! This is a love that we can scarcely comprehend.

How did he do it? How could he have such love for a ragtag band of imperfect and flawed human beings? How could he humble himself and be a servant to these arrogant disciples who refused to wash each other's feet? John says he did it because he knew three things.

1). *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power.*

2). *Jesus knew that he had come from God.*

3). Jesus knew that he was returning to God.

Because he knew these three things, he could serve others and humble himself. In short, Jesus knew who he was. And John is telling us because the same is true for us.

We waste so much time trying to build our identity on things of this world, only to have our foundation crumble time and time again. Everything in this world is temporary. But John is hoping that one day we will learn the same three things that set Jesus apart from everyone else.

1). ***We should know that the Father has given us all the power we need for any circumstance.***

Philippians 4:13,19: **"**I can do all things through him who gives me strength. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

2) ***We should know that we have come from God.***

Genesis 1:27: "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

3). We should know that we are returning to God.

1 Thessalonians 4:17: **"**After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

Discussion Questions:

In contrast to these three things Jesus knew, what do you think we sinful humans often see in our hearts?

How should we view ourselves—as fallen sinners or amazing beings made in the image of God?

Humbling ourselves can be hard. What does this story tell you that can help you be humble and serve others?

How can it benefit you to believe you are returning to God?

Homework:

Your **practice** for this week is to set aside a minimum of 15 minutes each day to reflect on the following Scripture.

Day 1: Reflect on John 13:1. What does Jesus loving you “to the end” mean to you?

Day 2: Reflect on John 13:3. Do you think you know how valuable you really are? What does it mean that you came from God?

Day 3: Reflect on John 13:3. How does the belief that you are returning to God change how you might live today?

Day 4: Reflect on John 13:3. Do you believe that God has given you access to all that you might need?

Day 5: Reflect on John 13:4,5. How does knowing these three things help you serve others?