

Loving Our Neighbors
Love the Way Jesus Taught It
The Preparation of Love

John 13:1 - *Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.*

3 ways Jesus showed His love by preparing for us

I. The Preparation for Your Future

A. The troubling nature of life in this world

14:1 - *Let not your hearts be troubled*

1. Meaning of "troubled"

tarasso – stir up, disturb, unsettle, throw in confusion

5:7 - *"water is stirred up"...*

1 Peter 3:14 - *But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled...*

2. for the disciples

3. for you and me

Job 14:1 - *Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil.*

Job 5:7 - *For man is born for trouble, as sparks fly upward.*

4. for those around us

B. Jesus' loving preparation

John 14:2 - *In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.*

a. a country due to its vastness (Hebrews 11:16)

b. a city emphasizing its large number of inhabitants (Hebrews 12:22)

c. a kingdom because God is its king (2 Timothy 4:18)

d. paradise because of its indescribable beauty (Revelation 2:7)

e. a place of rest where the redeemed are free from the wearying conflict with sin, Satan, and the evil world system (Hebrews 4:1-11) - (Gospel of John, vol. 2, John MacArthur, p. 100)

cf. Revelation 21:9-27

Revelation 21:21-23 - *And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.*

John 13:1 - *...having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.*

C. The implication to the way you love others

1. By being concerned for their eternal destiny

Ecclesiastes 3:11 - *...He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart...*

1 Peter 3:15 - *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;*

2. By planning for their future in other ways

II. The Preparation for Your Convictions

A. A clear command to believe

14:1 - *...believe in God, believe also in me.*

Acts 17:30-31 - *Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in*

righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

B. Because of His clearly attested deity

Exodus 3:14 - *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "*

John 18:4-6 - *So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. So when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.*

John 14:6 - *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

C. The beauty of His words

John 14:10 - *Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.*

D. The power of His works

John 14:11 - *Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.*

John 20:30-31 - *Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*

E. The implication to the way you love others

III. The Preparation of Access

John 14:13-14 - *Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*

You are in the hands of an omnipotent God whose ability to act on your behalf is only equaled by his passionate affection for you as his child, and whose strength is without end and whose sovereignty covers the expanse of the heavens.--Sam Storms in 'One Thing'.

John 14:15 - *If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*