

Intro: Continue our series on Overflow: Doing an overview...How do we have that kind of life? Life of abundance?
John 10:10 "I have come that you might have life, and have it overflowing in you..."

That kind of life...a life of abundance...spiritual overflow where the Spirit is so active in us...overflows to all around us

- Last week Learning from Jesus:
- Next week Living like Jesus:
- Today Loving Like Jesus: (*no better place to learn this...than Jn 13*)
Loving Like Jesus: John 13:1-17 Page 763

John 13 is the beginning of the second major section of John's gospel:

- Jn 1-12 basically covers 3 years...word love is used 9x
- Jn 13-17 basically covers one night...word love is used 30x !

It is a very special and precious look into a private time with Jesus and His disciples.

I had have the privilege of being present in hospital rooms, homes, hospice facilities with families saying goodbye

At that time...last moments...everything is significant. The smallest gesture...has huge significance: Combing hair...Shave
That is in essence what Jesus is doing in Jn 13...saying goodbye...he leaves this room...goes to Garden, Arrested: He Knows

This event sets the tone for everything that follows...here we see Jesus teaching his disciples...and us...how to love!

5 Things I want to say to you about loving like Jesus that will nourish/nurture that living water overflow!

1. Overflowing Love Is Visible:

Vs 1

- **Showed them:** Lit = He loved them to the end...or to the uttermost
~ to the end: Though his death was imminent...It still wasn't about him. Takes last opportunity to teach them
~ to uttermost: He loved them completely...without holding anything back:
Very hard to translate: Probably Hebrew idiom, John grabs it, shares it in Greek, Translated to English
"He loved them totally, completely, to the very end of his time with them...without reservation or hold back!"
- For us love is usually a word that we use to describe an emotion: Easily becomes a talking point
- For Jesus love is an action that is lived out for all to see: Insists on being an action!

Key: People in your life NEED to see God's love! They don't just need to HEAR "God loves you!"

SEE it lived out And you are the canvas He paints on!

2. Overflowing Love is Intentional:

Vs 4-5

Vs 1: Knowing His time was done...Going back to Father: THIS is what He did! This is not an off the cuff action

Everything here is written in a verb tense that suggests it is still taking place!

It is almost as if as John writes the story, He sees it all over again in his mind's eye. Actions of Jesus so profound..Burned in
Verb tense is so powerful: Some linguists use the term... Dramatic Present!

- *He rises:* ~*He takes off:* ~*Wraps* ~*He pours:* ~*He washes* ~*Dries*

Jesus is making a point...He waits until the very last possible moment...when no one else is stepping up to do needs doing:
Demonstrates LOVE! He never says during this entire event, "I love you!" He simply demonstrates it, Lives it out

Why? Because though He had told them over and over and over again...want to be great...be servant...Be First...be last!
They NEVER seemed to understand it...and we KNOW they didn't understand it because on way into dinner they were
arguing over who was the greatest! Luke 22

And so now, He intentionally DEMONSTRATES to them what love looks like...

Key: What Jesus does here is NOT: *Spur of the moment: Not just convenient: Not By Chance Making a POINT*

An Overflowing life is a life that is lived with intentionality...Demonstrating the love of God by action and by choice

Your love for people needs to be intentional...not just off the cuff, as it is convenient: Planned Purposefull

3. Overflowing Love is Sacrificial.

Vs 5

Look at what happens here...Don't miss it...So important to understand

- Knowing His time was done: Vs 1 "In the shadow of the cross" (*many times said, my time is not yet here*)
- Knew Father had put all things under his power: Fullness of divine authority is in HIS HANDS
- Knew He had come From God: He remembered Heaven
- Knew He was returning to God: Looking forward to leaving this world...for His Home!

With all of that knowledge, all that authority, all the glory of heaven and the worship of angels waiting...What did He do?

He laid down his power, and His rights, and His authority...and He stood up...took off cloak...wrapped a towel...got a basin
And began to wash his disciples dirty, stinky, smelly feet. Because THEY were too good to do it...Arguing about greatness!

If you every want to understand love: Burn this into your mind:

>>>Jesus on His hands and knees...washing the feet of His disciples...Including Judas....the one who would betray

You can't miss the symbolism: Just as he laid aside his earthly clothes and Humbled Himself...Laid aside His Glory to come!

The King of Heaven, having tens of thousands of angels holding their breath and bending down to see from heaven Gets on his knees...before a group of egotistical big headed men...and washes their feet
All heaven must have been silent: Watching in amazement: As the One Worthy of praise and Honor and Glory humbled self
Gabriel must have been standing at the door...Holding them back...as they watched their King on His knees...Serving John the Baptist, According to Jesus the greatest man ever lived said: I'm not worthy to wash his feet, to untie His sandals

Key: Overflowing love is Humble...Sacrificial...Lays down it's rights...and it serves...does whatever is needed!
Did it...KNOWING: Vs 3 That he deserved the Highest position...yet He chose the LOWEST!

4. Overflowing Love is Non- Judgmental.

During the course of dinner and this whole evening there are two different conversations that demonstrate Jesus love for imperfect people! He is modeling for us what and how WE should be loving people. We love them unconditionally and without judgement. Each of these two conversations would be a challenge for most of us.

- *Saw beyond Peter's limitations to his potential* vs 6-9
~Peter gets all huffy...Didn't want to wash anyone's feet...too good for THAT...but wasn't willing to let Jesus do it!
~Jesus responds...teaches Peter...If you are my disciple, THIS is the way you love people!
Key: Jesus is looking beyond Peter's limitations...to the potential of who he can be in the kingdom
That is how we should be as well. We don't judge people by where they are: But look at what can be w Jesus
- *Saw beyond Judas betrayal...and loved him anyway!* Vs 21-30
~Get a picture of Jesus on his knees...washing Judas stinky feet...See non judgmental love
~Watch as Jesus is giving him a piece of bread...a token of love and friendship: See non judgmental love

That is what you and I are called to. We are called to love people the way Jesus did!

No seeing their limitations, no seeing their sin, no seeing the shortcomings, and mistakes, and failures

But seeing their potential...what they can be by the Power of the Holy Spirit at work in their life.

And if they live up to that...as Peter did...that's wonderful

And if they fall short...as Judas did...you can sleep well knowing that you loved the way Jesus loved...No judgment!

5. Overflowing Love is Practical.

Vs 4-5

We sometimes want to turn "love" into some big dramatic overwhelming magnificent event.

Not so with Jesus. For Jesus...Love is meeting the need...whether that need is for forgiveness through the cross...

Or through foot washing...because it needs to be done!

- Needed to be done! *Open sandals...walking through the streets...Do that before you eat!*
- No one else was willing *Sat at the table...but no one moved...Elephant in the room*
- They were too busy arguing about who was most important *They KNEW: but they didn't DO*

And so Jesus did what no one else was willing to do. The only One that truly should have been above washing feet...was the only One that was willing to step up and do what needed to be done.

CONCL:

Notice Jesus says the same thing HERE that He said when He talked about Learning From Him Sermon on Mount

VS 17: Now that you KNOW these things, blessed are you if you DO them!

So here is the question: WHO DOES GOD WANT YOU TO LOVE THIS WEEK?

~Who around you needs to SEE God's love

~Who around you do you need to be INTENTIONAL about expressing God's love to?

~Who do you need to lay your rights down for...and love SACRIFICIALLY?

~Who needs you to look beyond their limitations...beyond their failures...and see their potential?

~Who needs you to find a PRACTICAL way to express the love of God

I want to close with a story that I read originally in 1983! 35 years ago...and it has lived in my heart ever since

STORY OF SHOES

This week...I want to challenge you...Live a life of Overflow!

Pray as we close...that God will give you eyes to see those around you that need to be loved the way Jesus loved people

Then when you leave today...leave LOOKING for God to use you to love a lost and dying world

That NEEDS to know God's Overflowing Love in their life.