

**Intro:** 8 Stages of a Southern Goodbye "It takes time to do it well!"

In John 13 Jesus is saying "goodbye" to His disciples...and He takes time to do it well!

There are a LOT of things going on in this passage of Scripture, but I want you to look with me at 3 specific elements of what takes place as it relates to the theme we have been developing, "The Shadow Of The Cross" Remember we said:

*Every step of Jesus life journey took him one step closer to the cross, yet he never hesitated, drew back or turned away from the task the Father gave him to do. He lived his life on purpose, accomplishing everything the Father gave him to do! And, one of the most important things Jesus did was instill in the heart of His disciples the principles that would help them turn their world upside down with the message of the Cross!*

*The Cross is looming now...upon them...and Jesus knows it, and is saying goodbye to the 12...closest companions, friends, followers: Some of Last Words...the things that are important...that He wants them to hold on to: Remember!*

*As Jesus does that that I want you to see 3 Essential Truths that the Shadow of the Cross brings into focus:*

1. What that Jesus KNEW:
2. What the Disciples DIDN'T KNOW:
3. What the World CAN KNOW if we get it right.

#### 1. What Jesus KNEW: Jesus KNEW How To Live...and Die Well...So He Showed Them.

In the same way that Jesus LIVED with Purpose...Jesus died with purpose. John 10:17-18

*"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life-- only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again."*

Look at the things Jn 13 tells us Jesus KNEW...and what He chose to DO with that knowledge, and WHY important!

- Time was come: vs 1: LOVE: How to express His love to the 12
- Father put all under Him: vs 3: HUMILITY: Could call 10k angels Mt 26:53
- Who would betray Him: vs 11: SUBMISSION: Necessary to fulfill Psalm 41
- Needed to teach them how to minister vs 12: SERVE: 3 years...STILL didn't get it!  
~No one willing to wash feet  
~Arguing over who was most important Lk 22
- Who He chose to change world vs 18 POTENTIAL: HE saw what they didn't see!

**APPLIC:** Each and every one of the things Jesus knew about the disciples that day...He KNOWS about YOU! Because YOU are His disciple as well! He knows how to LOVE you...How to Humbly call you to Himself, Knows when you are going to betray Him, and He knows how to teach you and empower you and enable you to serve Him...and Listen...He sees the POTENTIAL in you to CHANGE YOUR WORLD! You may not see it...but He does...and that my friends, is the SHADOW OF THE CROSS...That washes down through the ages...from Jesus...to Disciples...those since...to YOU!

He sees things in YOU that you don't see. He knows what the POWER OF THE CROSS can do...to every single person that comes to the Cross...bows at the foot of the Cross...finds forgiveness...strength..hope...and meaning.

If you have NEVER done that...then today is the day you need to place yourself in the Shadow of the Cross!

#### 2. Disciples Did NOT KNOW What God Was Doing!

Now...granted, they SHOULD have known. Jesus had told them numerous times. In fact, just a little earlier He had explained it all to them in explicit detail!

*"We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again." Luke 18:31-33*

But, they didn't get it. We can't be too hard on them, because God has told us all kinds of things...and we don't get it either! We know He calls us to follow...sacrifice...take up our cross...walk in the Shadow with Jesus...Still don't know. If we are honest with ourselves, we sometimes are just as confused as they were...

And...if we are SMART...We will LEARN from them the things we need to know to walk with Christ.

Look At the some of the things the Disciples didn't know...and what we can learn from them!

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|--|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Didn't know the significance of foot washing:  | vs 7        | SERVANTHOOD Modeled:           | Choose second   |
| • Didn't know the heart of people around them:   | vs 22-25    | HEART VISIBILITY               | Trust Him       |
| • Didn't know where Jesus was going!             | vs 36; 14:5 | FAITH: What God is doing       | I don't know OK |
| • Didn't know how to follow Him:                 | vs 14:1-6   | TRUST I am way, truth and life | He is the path  |
| • Didn't know how to do ministry trusted to them | vs 15:1-4   | ABIDING in Him                 | Stay connected  |

**Applic:** You see, just like the disciples we have to learn how to Trust God and walk with Him. We want every single step laid out before us. We wan't to know the plan, the steps, the outcome. We want to be able to measure, and know. But here is the reality...Jesus IS the plan!

~Choose to be a servant...like Him

~Trust Him to know the hearts of people...we can't

~Walk in faith...one step at a time...He knows

~Don't follow a PATH...Follow the risen Saviour

~Abide in Him....day by day by day...and trust Him to show us what to do and how to do it!

And if we get it right...there is one more piece of knowledge that can be known...

### 3. What the WORLD Can Know...If we Get Our Part Right!

The WORLD Can Know Jesus...If we Love Him...and One Another the way we should! 14:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

There are two initiatives God has laid on my heart for the time coming up of coming out of the pandemic and back into some semblance of normalcy in ministry.

- We need to be TOGETHER: I understand the need to be vigilant, and careful, and protect our families in these final weeks and months of getting the vaccine administered. But as SOON as you are able...I believe it is important for us to gather together as the people of God. Jesus said: Our LOVE for one another. He didn't say ~Our theology, Our buildings, Our position on political matters, our programs, initiatives: LOVE EACH OTHER
- We need to be SHARING: Jesus has given us at RTBC some amazing blessings...not just for us: OTHERS  
~Talking last week with a group of strategic planners: Growing church, gathering people:  
~I have ONE interest: Not shuffling sheep from another shepherd: Finding LOST bringing to Jesus!  
~Conversion to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and Discipling them to follow Him

**CONCL:** Are you walking in the Shadow with Jesus? The Shadow of the Cross washes through ages...all way to today

1. Do you know how to live? With Love, Humility, Submission, Service: Laying down your life! Call of Jesus
2. Do you know what you don't know...and are you willing to trust Him...Him alone...walk in His steps
3. Do you want YOUR world to KNOW Him? Do you know people lost...needing a Savior...willing to share

In the next 12 months we are going to focus on that with everything we are...and everything we have. We are going to restructure, refocus, recommit, re tool and re work everything we do in order to reach people for Jesus. Come with us. Start praying NOW for the part you should play. God sees things in you...even you can't see; Trust that