

08/09/2013

Love One Another (JOHN 13:18-38)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS.

GROUP DISCUSSION. *If you knew a close friend was going to falsely betray you, and the betrayal would cost you your job, what would you do?*

PERSONAL REFLECTION. *Has someone in your life ever hurt you deeply? What was your response to him or her?*

If we had been one of Jesus' disciples, we would probably have found it difficult to be around Peter. He was blunt and, at times, arrogant. On the other hand, we might have regarded Judas with trust and respect. The only one who saw deeply enough to discern the true character of these men was Jesus. Read John 13:18:38.

1. *What tone of voice do you think Jesus uses in verse 21? in verse 26? in verse 27?*
2. *Evidently the disciples did not know who would betray Jesus (v.22). What does this tell you about how Jesus had treated Judas?*
3. *How do the disciples interpret Jesus' instruction to Judas in verse 27 (vv 28-29)?*
4. *Can we apply Jesus' example to the way we should treat our "betrayers," or was this a unique situation that really doesn't apply today? Explain your answer.*
5. *What is "new" about Jesus' command in verse 34?*
6. *John later wrote, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers" (1 John 3:16). In what practical ways can we exhibit this sacrificial love?*
7. *Why does that kind of love convince all of humanity that we are Jesus' disciples (v. 35)?*
8. *Do you think Peter's declaration in verse 37 comes from pride or from sincerity? Explain why you came to that conclusion.*
9. *Three people stand out in this passage-Jesus, Judas and Peter. What one character quality of each-good or evil-makes the greatest impression of you?*
10. *What can you do to avoid the failures and to follow after the strengths of each main character?*

Let God speak to you about any areas of spiritual weakness or vulnerability in your life. Pray for a strong faith that will keep you from turning away from the Lord in a crisis.

11. *Now or Later*

On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (exceptional), how does your church or Christian community rank against the standard of love Jesus spells out in verses 34 and 35? What can you do personally to increase the score?