

God's Love (Jn. 13:1-11)

Today is Thanksgiving Sunday. Thanksgiving day is the day where we give thanks to God for all the harvest and crops that He gave to us throughout the year. With much great faith we have placed fruits in front of the Lord. This signifies the message of how thankful we are for all the answers He has given to us throughout the year and to give us more answers in the upcoming year. There are many feasts recorded in the bible but there are three representative feasts. It is the feast of the Passover, Pentecost, and the Feasts of Ingathering. The bible is the book that belongs to the Lord. It is not a story that someone came up with but it is God's story. All of God's word is a prophecy and fulfillment of the word. The bible records what will be fulfilled in the society of mankind. Before God gives us His answer He first gives us His word and He does according to it. He also fulfills the word. The bible records the 7,000 words of God that have been fulfilled. Amongst all those words, God commands His people to keep the three feasts and when you do keep the three feasts there will be miracles. What is the feast of Passover? It is the day of liberation from all sins and curses. When you observe the feast of Passover you will be liberated from all that you are enslaved to. It is God's commandment you must keep, not only that, it is His proclamation. So when you observe it, works will take place. It's the same for the day of the Pentecost and the Feasts of Ingathering. That is why the day of the Passover was kept on the fourteenth day of the evening. On that evening or on the very first day they had to capture the lamb, offer it to the Lord, and share it throughout the tribes. They would keep the lamb for fourteen days and on the last night they would kill the lamb and place the blood on themselves. Why was it held for fourteen days? It was for them to concentrate on the significance of the lamb and the blood of the lamb. On the evening of the fourteenth day God desired them to put the lamb to death and hold to the blood of the lamb. That is why they held onto the covenant and meditated on it for fourteen days. After that, for seven days they would eat the unleavened bread that signified the body of Christ. The people in the old testament may not have fully comprehended this but this was God's word, "You must keep this because this signifies Christ that came to die on your behalf." The covenant the Israelites held onto in the past was the blood of the lamb. On the day of the Passover, for all the houses that placed the blood on their doorpost became liberated from slavery. All the households that placed the blood on the doorpost did not die but all those who didn't die, including their first born and all of their livestock. That is the reason why they had to commemorate the day of the Passover until the next generations so that they would never forget what the ancestors had done. You must be able to believe that it is Christ who has completed it on the cross. You must be able to believe that it is the promising blood of Jesus Christ without sin that has liberated you from all. When you are able to confess and see the work of Satan being

bound, that is when you will stand as a witness. Next is the day of the Pentecost. The day of the Pentecost represents the fiftieth day. It began from the day of the Passover until the fiftieth day. From that moment on that day became the day of the Pentecost. That is why the Lord says to never forget this day and commemorate it. When you go and enter into the land of Canaan you must never forget about it, yet you must commemorate it. After fifteen hundred days of the word being prophesied that is when the Holy Spirit came upon them. It's truly outstanding. Of course, at that time the people of Israelites had no clue and just simply kept the days. However, the Lord himself knew it all so from the start of the day of the Passover, until the fiftieth day they had to keep the Pentecost. That was the fulfillment of the prophecy. It is not a commandment, it is the prophecy as well as the promise of God. This has been fulfilled, but that was the day before the Day of the Sabbath. If it is the Sabbath day, it would have been on the 49th day, however, the Lord says to let it be the 50th day, so it was on the 50th day. And Jesus's resurrection is not on the Sabbath Day, but is after the Sabbath Day. There is a significant meaning behind this. In the Old Testament, there is the Year of Jubilee. On that day, they have complete freedom and liberation. If they are in debt, they would not have to pay it. For those that were enslaved in a household, they could return back home and be liberated. The Year of the Jubilee is on the 50th day. It speaks of the first day of the Year of the Jubilee after the Sabbath Year. It has significant meaning behind that. All that day signifies Christ who had died and resurrected. That is how the Israelites were able to gather after the day of the Sabbath which was the Lord's Day. Naturally, the believers had no choice but to meet on the Lord's Day instead of the Sabbath Day. Why would there be a need to follow after the law when God had already completed it all? The remaining feast is the Feast of Ingathering. On that day, you give your first crop and harvest to the Lord. The first crop that you give to the Lord is the confession that it is Jesus Christ who is your first crop. What the Lord commanded to them signified Christ. The Feast of Ingathering is to gather all of the harvest crops of fall. You are able to give all of the fruits and grapes to the Lord. They would store it, so that when winter comes, they could eat it. This signifies your salvation and heaven. It speaks about the throne and authority of heaven. The Feast of Ingathering signifies of the Feast of Booth. For a week, the Israelites had to build a booth and live inside of it. The Lord tells them to continue on so that they would never forget their ancestors who had left Egypt, as they built a tent and lived there as well. Throughout the Old Testament, it signifies the importance and you shall never forget this. May the blessing be upon you so that you will never forget the citizenship of heaven He has given you and all of the answers he has given to you.

1. The Love of God

Today's passage is a well-known passage of when Jesus washes the disciples' feet. The lowly servants of all servants would be the ones who wash the feet of the guests. The disciples were very stunned because Jesus was doing what the lowly servant would do. The other disciples were speechless when Jesus washed their feet, but Simon Peter refused to have his feet washed by Jesus. Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash." The one who has been bathed has been bathed by the Holy Spirit and the power of Christ in which they have received salvation. This is the passage in which Jesus relates the message that "This is my love for you and you must do this as well." We must do as he did. We are very lacking, but we must be able to love one another, forgive, accept, and understand them. The way for you to gain someone else's heart is to give your heart first. In order to share the gospel to them, you must gain their heart first. There is a story that we all know so well. There was a deal between the sun and the wind. They questioned who could strip down the clothes of the one that walks back. So the wind went first. The wind tried all that he could to blow the person's clothes away. It would be very cold and freezing, so who would want to let go of their clothes? Even as the wind was blowing so hard, the person held tightly onto their own clothes and so the wind failed. Next, it was the sun's turn. The sun was able to lift up the heat so that the person easily stripped away their clothes. This is what love is. The way for you to save others is to love, understand, and encourage each other. Even though you are lacking in so many ways, you must do your best to be like this. There is a very important message regarding the Washing of the Feet. It is the message that He has sent His own son to be a servant so that he is able to save them. Mark 10:45 states, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." He came to give his own self as a ransom for many. This is one of the examples of the washing of the feet. You, who must gain the hearts of others, for the sake of evangelism, must understand the love of Christ to sufficiently give this to others. Couple weeks ago, we took a look at the passage of Mary who truly loved the Lord. She was able to give it her all when she used the most expensive ointment to wash his feet and wiped it with her hair. She knew that she couldn't dare use her own hands to wash His feet. In most cases, we understand the message of washing His feet: to love others, understand others, and encourage others. That is rightful, and you must do the same as well. You must be able to do your best diligently, and even if you make a mistake, may you keep in mind that you will not make the same mistake and move on. But first and foremost, what you need is the understanding of the love of God. You must deeply understand the love of God rather than sim-

ply saying it with your mouth as lip service. Before that, you must uncover the Gospel. Also, you must be able to personally enjoy the Gospel to which you are able to understand so that your eyes will be opened to see it. Then, you will be able to go all in. You will be able to reach the conclusion that you are able to give your all to the Lord, just as Mary has. For Mary, using the expensive ointment was not a big deal. Of course, anyone who has money is able to do the same thing she did. Yet, for Mary, she made the confession that she is able to give her all the Lord. That means she truly knew who Jesus was. She knew who He was and truly believed inside of her heart. This must click in your heart. So, humbly, she never dared wash His feet with her hands. That is why she used her own hair. And if you understand her heart, you will be able to know right away that she was able to give her all to the Lord. This is the heart you need to have as well. You must be able to connect with God's heart in this aspect to the extent to which you are able to love others and all things on Earth. May this heart be upon you so that you have the understanding of the love of God to which doors of evangelism will be opened. So, throughout this week, may we love those around us; love your family, friends, and neighbors. Of course, we are lacking, but we should try to put it into action. There will be healing taking place, not only for them, but yourself as well. When you are able to give your heart to them first, that is when the doors of evangelism will be opened. May this blessing be upon you all throughout the week. May this be the week in which you are able to have the understanding of the love of God.

2. You Must Match to God's Direction

The second point is that you must match God's direction. For you to love your family, friends, and neighbors, you must first match God's direction. It is far worse for you to go the incorrect path. There are many interpretations regarding the time when Moses received the Word in Mount Sinai. At that very moment when he received God's word, he was able to clearly discern the life direction he needed to take. At the time, he wasn't completely lost. However, he wandered until the day the word came upon him. Of course, Moses already knew of the Gospel, and even at the time of the wilderness, he wrote the book of Genesis, according to biblical scholars. That means he knew the significance of Genesis 3:15 and 3:21. He knew of the Gospel, but his life did not truly begin. He didn't have a clear direction. That is why he was not able to clearly start his life. And if this is the case, he most likely did not have the proper and clear lifelong prayer topic for the Lord. Of course, because he was in difficulties, he prayed a lot. You have no choice but to pray when you are in hardships, and God has permitted that so that he receives answers. But it is the truth regardless of it all. Until the Word came upon him, he did not have a clear life direction. It's the same for Joseph. Even though he was such a young boy, he was at a high spiritual level

to which he was able to receive the Word of God as his own dream. Jacob clothed Joseph with the colorful robe. Jacob himself was a person that was very spiritually selfish to which he would have never let his son be. Of all the words he's heard, starting from Adam and Abraham and so on, he continuously shared that to Joseph. And he continuously shared the stories of the forefathers, such as Abraham and Isaac. That's why Joseph was very different in Jacob's eyes, and that is why he was spiritually different from his brothers as well. That is why Jacob clothed him with a colorful robe and never let him go out to the field to work. He had the special privilege, but before the dream came upon him, he never had a sure direction for his life. He had no answer to his future. Yet, one day, God gave him a dream, and that became his answer, direction, and future. Likewise, we need to have this as well. You must come to realize this so that your direction is aligned and matched with God's. That is how you will be able to connect with God, communicate with Him, and match your life direction to His. Everything is pertained inside of Christ. There is salvation, there is the answer that you receive in Christ. With all that you have received inside of Christ, your eyes must be aligned with and matched to God's desire. For Moses and Joseph, it was 237 that God desired. For Abraham as well, it was to be aligned with 237. And Noah was a person of the covenant, and God permitted the flood in order to save Noah. It was for the covenant to be fulfilled, so later on when God wiped out all of mankind, it was Noah who was able to enjoy 237 and everything belonged to him. For Apostle Paul, the moment he met Jesus, God gave him the commission to save the Gentiles as his instrument. All the biblical figures are like this as well. What does this mean? God is saying that all those who believe in him must head towards 237 for that is God's desire and covenant and prophesy. This is our blessing. It is not only renowned evangelists who can receive this blessing, everyone must partake in 237. There are those who are able to go out to the field and save others, but there are also those who remain and simply pray holding onto the covenant of 237. However, it is more of a matter of your heart. For you to receive the answer of 237, your thoughts must be aligned and changed to 237 before you even begin prayer. If you lose hold of God's desire, but you fervently pray to God hoping to receive your own desire, that is religion. God says that you are not a Gentile who seeks after all things, you must be able to seek after his kingdom and righteousness which are of God's desire and Christ. May the blessing be upon you so that your thoughts are changed. Then you will be liberated from all that you are enslaved to when you hold onto God's desire of 237. Even if you do not pray so fervently, if you just hold to 237 you will be able to conquer all things. It is because your heart will be enlarged and that is how you will be able to surpass all the things that come before you. When you hold onto 237 you will be liberated, have conquest, and have victory over all things. We must be able to hold onto the fundamentals of Christ and align your eyes to 237. When you simply pray to God

to allow you to partake in 237, there is a natural result that follows. You will be able to go all in and confess, "I will give my all to you, Lord, for the sake of 237." That is when the Lord will give everything to you. Your life will be overjoyed and you will be able to receive all the things that you need. Of course, it cannot take place just because you resolve within your heart and your own strength, but it is not wrong for you to resolve in your heart first. What is more accurate is God's time schedule. When you hold onto God's desire as your own, you must be able to first and foremost enjoy and confess Christ. Then, God will guide you. That is why we continuously emphasize Christ because Christ is the fundamental solution and answer. It is Satan who does not allow you to partake in 237. All of those who hold onto 237, their life as well as heart will become enlarged and their enlarged vessel will be greatly used by God. Even if you are stuck in a room, you will be able to live a grand life as you hold to 237. This is an amazing blessing for all the remnants and young adults if you simply hold onto the covenant, even if you are stuck in a room, God will greatly use you and you will live a grand life. Of course Satan will come to hinder and attack you. What is the answer to blocking the works of Satan? You must enjoy Christ. When you hold onto the covenant that day of blessings will come upon you and that is what we call the time schedule. That is why you pray, "God please let it take place within me." Then one day you will be able to have the heart where you will want to give your all to the Lord. Daniel was able to resolve inside of his heart and he confessed, "Lord I will do this for you." All the martyrs' prayers were all like this, "Lord please receive me." Today is Thanksgiving Sunday, however it is not completely aligned with the Feast of Ingathering. However we are the Christian denomination, that is why we observe and keep it. There are many aspects that we keep and observe holding onto the biblical aspect that has been passed down. Of course we have received the ideology that we must keep the Sabbath day that is on the Lord's day. We observe the Feast of Ingathering on the day of Thanksgiving. May you be thankful for all the answers he has given to you throughout the year. May you continuously pray to the lord, "God give me even more blessings next year." God will be very pleased if you continuously pray, "God could you please give me more blessings regarding my family and business." So you can stand as a sure witness and be able to love your family, your neighbours, and children with the love of God so that the doors of evangelism can open and you can share the gospel. Just like Joseph and Moses, you must connect to God's heart and desire. You shouldn't be living holding onto your own thoughts, or else you will be oppressed by life. Your thinking must be aligned to God. I bless you in the name of the Lord that you will be able to live a grand life holding onto this.