

John: Jesus is the Christ # 45
(Preparing for Parting # 1)

John 13^{1,3}

Jesus knew!

The power & comfort of knowing



(Context)

We're continuing our **journey w Jesus** – as recorded for us by disciple John;

- last mini-series last year was last of Jesus' 7 signs:
 - **ch 11** - raising of Lazarus from dead;
 - occasion for Jesus to further reveal His identity / mission:
I am the resurrection & the life;
 - **ch 12** closed w Jesus' presentation of gospel in a nutshell;
 - not in 1 verse – like **John 3(16)**;
 - but in 1 paragraph;
 - that was the end of Jesus' public ministry;
 - 3 yrs summarised in 12 chapters;
 - next we have 7 chapters covering just 1 night & 1 day.

This mini-series (term 1 – 8 sermons) cover next 2 chapters (13-14);

- whole series outlined on handout ...
- called series “**Preparing for Parting**”
 - because that is what it is;
- (1) **Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world**
 - might expect it would be His own preparation;
 - but no – His focus is on preparing His disciples for His departure.

Today's sermon is **introductory** one – just **1st & 3rd verse**;

- want to give each of you opportunity to be 1 step ahead of me;
 - Life Groups launch this week;
 - Life Groups will be studying text before I get there following Sunday;
- so leaving opening activity of Jesus washing His disciples' feet;
 - leaving that for you to explore / discover for yourselves;
- ∃ some preliminary verses (1,3) that we need to get our minds around up front.

(Time & place)

What we been talking about so far = **context**

- **time** – eve of Jesus' departure;

- He timed it to coincide w Feast of **Passover**;
 - that's v significant;
 - that's why we had CT to remind us all what Passover all about;
- God's judgement coming on whole world;
 - but passing over / bypassing His people who are trusting in Him.

That's time;

- **place** is Upper room – upstairs room;
 - other gospel writers (MML) record how Jesus asked them to go on ahead of Him to prepare place for Passover;
 - last evening together;
 - focus in John acct – is not them preparing a place for Jesus;
 - but Jesus preparing them for His parting.

- (1) Now before the Feast of the Passover,
when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father,
having loved his own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.
- (3) Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into His hands,
and that He had come from God and was going back to God.
- focus today is on **Jesus knew!**
 - 5 things we are told in our text: Jesus knew ...

Jesus knew where He had come from

- (3) **Jesus, knew that He had come from God**
- rich statement!

Jesus knew : He had come from God & His **mother** Mary in **supernatural** way;

- Joseph was His legal father – but not His biological father;
- Jesus knew : He had been conceived by the power of God in the womb of Mary when she was still a virgin.

Jesus knew : He had come from God;

- in that He had **always been in the mind** / purpose / will of God;
- foreknown from before foundation of world;
- this also applies to all of us who are believers;
- foreknown / foreloved in mind / heart of God from before time;
- but ∃ more – far more for Jesus.

Jesus knew : He had come from God

- He had **existed w God** before He was born into this world;
 - this is utterly unique;
 - no one ever like this ever before – ever afterwards;
- Jesus knew His eternal existence w God in the beginning
 - before the beginning of time;
 - that is how this gospel started isn't it?

1(1) In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- **Jesus knew all this;**

- He knew His pre-existence;
- He knew His eternal existence;
- He knew : He was intrinsically / eternally God – one w the Father;
- He knew : eternal plan – He would create the world & everything in it;
 - He would allow His world to rebel / reject Him
 - He would come into world to redeem world;
 - He knew His mission / commission w Father.

- Jesus knew all this;

- **He just knew!**

Jesus knew : He has come from God;

- He knew He has come from **realm of glory** / beauty / perfection / paradise / heaven
- dwelling in bosom of the Father – eternally one.

Jesus knew where He had come from ...

Jesus knew where He was going to

(3) Jesus, knew that He had come from God and was going back to God.

Jesus knew : the **outcome soon** would be : He would be **back w God**;

- back w God in the glory He had before the world was;
- back w God w sense of mission accomplished;
- back w God w all the people who He has redeemed following in His train;
- back w God into a new realm of eternity
 - now embracing all his blood-bought people / born-again children;
 - brought them back to God too.

(1) Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father.

- Jesus knew : this going back to God meant departing this world;
- Jesus knew : this meant tearing Himself away from His disciples;
- Jesus knew : they did not yet understand His departure / mission / purpose;
- Jesus knew : they would be distraught w His departure.

Jesus knew : He had to depart this world **to redeem this world**

- to prepare way – BE the way into the new world for all His disciples to follow
 - for them to come to God.
- Jesus knew He had to go back to God.

Jesus knew what He had in His hands

(3) Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into His hands.

Jesus knew : He had a **sovereignty** which extended to anything / everything;

- all things were in His hands;

- His **betrayal** by one of His own disciples was in His hands;
- His betrayer was in His hands;
- His denial by one of His own disciples was in His hands;
- His denier was in His hands;
- His trial was in His hands;
- Pontius Pilate was in His hands;
 - Pilate thought he had power over Jesus' life / death;
 - Jesus – you have no power except power been given to you
 - power that I given you;
- His crucifixion was in His hands;
- crowds who clamoured *Crucify Him / crucify Him* were in His hands;
- His life was in His hands;
 - no one took His life from Him;
 - He has power to lay it down – power to take it up again;
- His resurrection was in His hands.

Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into His hands.

Jesus knew that His hour had come

(1) Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world.

Jesus knew : **His hour had come** to give His life a ransom for many;

Jesus knew : **His hour had come** to lay down His life

Jesus knew : **His hour had come** to give Himself into hands of His enemies

- for them to do w Him as they will;

Jesus knew: **His hour had come** to yield His hands to the nails : would bind Him to cross;

Jesus knew: **His hour had come** to take on Himself all the sin of all His people in all world;

Jesus knew: **His hour had come** to submit Himself into the hand of God as Just Judge of all

Jesus knew: **His hour had come** to endure anguish / agony of separation from His Father.

Jesus knew: **His hour had come** to prepare His disciples for His departure.

Jesus had been **orchestrating** all these things;

Jesus knew : now was right time for everything to come to crushing / excruciating crescendo

Jesus knew : He had to prepare His disciples for what was about to happen;

- not that they would understand

- but so that afterwards they would understand.

Jesus knew how to love His people

(1) Jesus knew that having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

Jesus **knew** those who were **His own**;

- those whom the Father had given to Him from before foundation of world;

- those who were like sheep who had heard / would hear the Shepherd's voice;

- those who were appointed to / enabled to believe;

- (to use Biblical language) those who were predestined to eternal life.

Jesus knew how to love them w **electing love**;
 Jesus knew how to love them w redeeming love;
 Jesus knew how to love them w justifying love;
 Jesus knew how to love them w adopting love;
 Jesus knew how to love them w sanctifying love;
 Jesus knew how to love them w disciplining love;
 Jesus knew how to love them w nurturing / nourishing love;
 Jesus knew how to love them w understanding love;
 Jesus knew how to bring His disciples along w Him / after Him in His love.

Jesus knew how to love His people – and **love them to the end**;
 - to the end of His days;
 - to the end of their days;
 - to the end of the day of all days.

Application

Do we know that Jesus will love us to the end?

4 practical / personal / pertinent Qs:

Could He withdraw His love?

Scripture says:

Phil 1(6) I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you
will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13:5 He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So the A is **NO** – Jesus will never / ever withdraw His love from His people;
 - having set His love on them – **He will love them to the end.**

Could He hide His love?

Scripture says:

Isa 54(8) In overflowing anger for a moment I hid My face from you,
 but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,"
 says the LORD, your Redeemer.

- so yes there can be times when God sees fit to hide the light of His face from us;
- ∃ can be times when heaven seems like brass;
- ∃ can be times when it feels like our prayers are not heard;
- ∃ can be times when we feel like God is v far away.

So the A is **YES** – Jesus may at times hide His love acc to our finite senses;
 - but always at v same time Jesus never actually withdrawn His love;
 - He has never disowned / abandoned / forsaken His people.

Could we forfeit His love?

Scripture says:

Isa 59(2) Your iniquities have separated you from your God;
 your sins have hidden his face from you, so that **He will not hear.**

1 John 1(8) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

So the A is **YES** – we forfeit God's love all the time;
 - in fact we've never ever deserved His love;
 - all we can ever do is forfeit His love.

But the immediately preceding verse of Isaiah:

Isa 59(1) Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear.
 Heb 7(25) He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him,
 since He always lives to make intercession for them.

So the A is **YES** – we forfeit God's love;
 - but **NO** - He never forfeits His hold upon His people.

John 10(28) I give them eternal life, and they will never perish,
 and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

Could we rest in His love?

Jesus says:

John 15(9) As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love.

(10) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love,
 just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

(11) These things I have spoken to you,
 that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

So the A is **YES** – we could rest / abide in His love;
 - but sadly we don't as much as we could / should / would
 - if we took more to heart His promises like this.

But **despite all our failings** – just like the failings of the original 12 disciples:

- Jesus never ever failed His disciples;
- Jesus never ever failed in His purpose;
- Jesus never ever had anyone snatched out / fall out / jump out of His hands;
 - having set His love upon them – He loves them to the v end;
 - into all eternity!

Pray

Sing Shepherd of souls, refresh & bless your chosen pilgrim flock ... [TH 424]

Lord's Supper – Passover retake