

**JOHN 13:1-7**  
October 16, 1988  
**ROME GEORGIA**  
**March 15, 2015**

PREVIOUS WEEKS OUTLINE ON **13:1**

- I. THE CHARACTER OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST
- II. THE CONTINUANCE OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST
- III. THE COMMAND TO CONTINUE IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Chapter **13:1-17** provides us a beautiful insight into the heart of God and our Savior's true humility.

It demonstrates his love for the disciples right up to THE END.

Even as He hung on the tree - He committed His own mother into the care of one of the disciples.

But does the END mean that He only loved them until the Cross?

As he walked on the seashore after His resurrection, **He cooked breakfast for the disciples!** Jn. 21:9

Christ's service was based on His Love which in turn was based on His knowledge that The Father had everything under control.

**OPENING ILLUSTRATION:**

"THERE IS AN OLD **HEBREW LEGEND** that tells of a **rabbi journeying on a mule** through a wild country. His only companion was a **rooster** whose shrill crowing at sunrise awoke him to his devotions. He came to a small town at nightfall and sought shelter, but the **inhabitants turned him away**. Outside the village he found a cave in which to sleep.

He lit his **lamp** before retiring, but a **GUST OF WIND** blew it out.

During the night, a **WOLF KILLED his ROOSTER** and a **LION DEVoured his MULE**.

Early in the morning, he went to the town to see if he could buy some food. To his surprise, **he found no one alive**. **A band of robbers** had come during the night and plundered the settlement and killed all the inhabitants.

**"NOW I UNDERSTAND MY TROUBLES,"** said the rabbi.

"If the townspeople had received me, I would now be dead. Had not my rooster and mule been killed their noise or the light of my lamp would have revealed my hiding place. **GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME!**" **db 1-8-70.**

**"WHEN GOD CONCEALS HIS PURPOSES - KEEP LIVING ON HIS PROMISES!"**

READ **John 13:1-7**. . . JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HIM, **WHAT I DO THOU KNOWEST NOT NOW; BUT THOU SHALT KNOW HEREAFTER.**

MANY EVENTS MARK OUR LIVES, BOTH THOSE THAT WE THINK ARE BLESSINGS, AND THOSE WHICH WE ARE SURE ARE A CURSE.

OFTEN WE ARE BEWILDERED AND WE QUESTION THE WISDOM OF OUR LOVING GOD.

ALL TOO OFTEN WE HEAR THE PLAINTIVE CRY OF THE BEREAVED AS THEY DEMAND TO KNOW WHY IT WAS NECESSARY **FOR THEIR LOVED ONE TO DIE**, OR THEIR **CHILD TO GO ASTRAY**, OR THEIR **BUSINESS TO FAIL**, OR ANY ONE OF **TEN THOUSAND OTHER SORROWS** THAT BEFALL MANKIND EVERYDAY.

EVEN STRONG CHRISTIANS BREAK DOWN AND CRY TO THE LORD FOR UNDERSTANDING.

**Dr. Harold Sala** (President of Guidelines International, Inc ) was recounting a time when he and Lehman Strauss (former Professor of Old Testament at the Philadelphia Bible Institute. Pastor, Jewish father, etc.) were having morning devotions together. **Bro. Strauss** shared with Dr. Sala about his wife of 50 years who had suffered repeated and increasingly debilitating strokes. (*Wife had led him to the lord in 1927*) Finally the doctors at the hospital could do no more and suggested that he move his wife to a convalescent home for her remaining days  
Once again he reassured her that God had everything under control **and then broke down himself** and questioned the validity of that statement **which we all too glibly toss around**. (**Strauss** wrote [\*In God's Waiting Room: learning through Suffering\*](#))

**C.S. Lewis, Charles Haden Spurgeon, William Cowper (Cooper)**, and an endless list of saints through the ages have struggled with this matter of having to accept by faith the outworking of the will of God for their lives.

Turning to the **biblical text** - we find the pages replete with **examples of those who frankly admitted that they were bewildered by the outworking of God's plan in their lives**.

## **JERIMIAH**

### **JERIMIAH 32:, 24 25**

v. 6-8, the prophecy from God to the prisoner Jerimiah and to the nation – the purchase of the field of Anathoth. (**which was at the time, occupied by the Chaldeans!**)

**15** – future possession in the land currently under siege and about to be forfeit.

### **16-23 -**

Jerimiah recognized the sovereignty of God **16-22**, and the wickedness of the nation of Israel **23**. And the surety of the capitulation of Israel to Babylon **24** He eloquently expounds all these things here. But **then he wonders aloud in v. 25 - why** BUY THE FIELD? WHAT IS THE POINT? ALL IS LOST!

BUT GOD HAD ALREADY ANSWERED THIS QUESTION - CF. **V. 15 & 36-44**.

**Jer 32:15** For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; **Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.**

32-34 – summary of Israel's wickedness

36-44, **28-40 42 & 44**

## **DANIEL**

### **Daniel 12:4 & 8-10 -**

**Dan 12:4** "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and **seal the book until the time of the end**; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

**Dan 12:8** **Although I heard, I did not understand**. Then I said, "My lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things?*"

would not understand - **but in the end times, men would understand**. (this could, as many believe, refer to the end times when knowledge increases – as we are indeed seeing almost daily. Others believe it refers

more specifically to the tribulation period {which is, of course, the time contextually in view here.} when people will search the prophecies and understand them finally.)

## THE DISCIPLES

**John 12:16** These things **understood not his disciples at the first:** but when Jesus was glorified, **then remembered they that these things** were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

**John 14:26** But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, **and bring all things to your remembrance**, whatsoever I have said unto you.

## PETER

**John 13:6** Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, **Lord, dost thou wash my feet?** Jesus answered and said unto him, **What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.**

Peter's understanding would be ever increasing - **v. 10-12** gave Peter a little **glimpse of the academics of the actions of Christ.** He began to taste the doctrinal significance. **But it was not a complete revelation.**

Later in **chapter 13** - Peter will pledge his life in service to the Lord - but **Christ points out that he still does not fully understand - for he will yet deny the Savior.**

**Again, Christ will demonstrate the principal of servitude as He prepares breakfast for Peter and the disciples after His resurrection - yet Peter still does not fully understand!** Indeed, it is at this point that Christ must pull from the lips of Peter his somewhat reluctant confession of Love to the Lord. (**John 21**)

**13:7** JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HIM, **WHAT I DO THOU KNOWEST NOT NOW; BUT THOU SHALT KNOW HEREAFTER.**

POOR IMPETUOUS **PETER!**

**PETER** COULD SAY WITH THE BEST OF THEM - **WHATEVER GOD WILLS, SO BE IT.**

**BUT,** HE STRUGGLED WITH THE REST OF US WITH THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING THE WILL OF GOD IN PARTICULAR INSTANCES.

**Mark 8:31** And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. **And he spake that saying openly. AND PETER TOOK HIM, AND BEGAN TO REBUKE HIM.**

**LIKE US, - ALL TOO OFTEN - PETER WOULD BE AT A LOSS FOR WORDS TO SAY. IN AN EFFORT NOT TO BE CAUGHT SHORT, HE WOULD SAY ALMOST ANYTHING!**

## At the TRANSFIGURATION

**Mar 9:5** Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—

**Mar 9:6** **because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid.** NKJV

**WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY - SAY SOMETHING THAT SOUNDS RELIGIOUS!**

There are many things in life that confound us all - many circumstances that overwhelm us. We are presented with **many opportunities to question the wisdom of God.**

The learning process in this life moves at a slow grinding pace - and it moves throughout our lifetime. Lessons that we thought we had learned long ago - are repeated again and again and **each time we learn more of God's wisdom.**

IN **JOHN 13:1 & 3** - AS JESUS FACED THE AGONY OF THE CROSS - AGAIN AND AGAIN THE CONCEPT IS REITERATED –

**"JESUS, KNOWING (THE WILL OF) THE FATHER . . . LOVED THEM TO THE END . . . SERVED THEM TO THE UTMOST . . .**

**WHEN STRENGTH WOULD SEEM TO FAIL HIM - UNSHAKING CONFIDENCE IN THE FATHER SAW HIM THROUGH.**

**To PETER - . . . WHAT I DO THOU KNOWEST NOT NOW; BUT THOU SHALT KNOW HEREAFTER. 13:7**

**To the BELIEVER –James encourages us James 5:7-8 & 11 . . . Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain, BE YE ALSO PATIENT; ESTABLISH YOUR HEARTS: FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD DRAWETH NIGH.**

**James 5:11** Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of **Job** and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. nkjv

**"THE FOLDED PAGE"** author - unknown. From **db 8-4-81**

Up in the quaint old attic - as the raindrops pattered down  
And I sat conning over an old school book - dusty worn and brown.

I came to a leaf that was folded, and marked with a childish hand,  
"THE TEACHER SAYS TO LEAVE THIS NOW, 'TIS HARD TO UNDERSTAND"

What was so hard? I wondered; I opened it with a smile,  
Only to read at the problems end: "***We learned why after a while.***"

**My tears fell thick as the raindrops then, up in the attic old,  
As I thought of leaves that are "folded down" till the days of our lives are told.**

One was folded there with tender hand, to the sound of summer rain;  
When the dust of years lies thick above, will we open this page again?

And can we write with steady hand, and on our lips a smile,  
**"AT LAST OUR TEACHER TOLD US WHY, AND WE LEARNED IT - AFTER A WHILE"?**

Or, as Paul more succinctly stated it:

**I Corinthians 13:12** FOR NOW WE SEE THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY; BUT THEN FACE TO FACE:  
NOW I KNOW IN PART; BUT THEN SHALL I KNOW EVEN AS ALSO I AM KNOWN.

*I was trimming mu mustache in the cabinet mirror yesterday. The mirror was a bit foggy and the lighting was poor. After the trim, I noticed Annette's "makeup mirror" on top of the cabinet and took it down to see if I could spot any recalcitrant whiskers. One side of the mirror is normal, the other is greatly magnified. I was able to hold the mirror in such a way as to catch the reflected light and I was surprised how poor a job I had done on the trim! More light, and a better mirror make a big difference in that which is revealed.*