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John 13:7

Jesus replied, "You don't understand now why I am doing it; someday you will".

In the passage above, Jesus is talking to Peter and the other disciples about why he is washing their feet on the evening of the Last Supper. Jesus knew that the time to finish His mission here on earth was approaching. He had one more very important lesson that he wanted to teach His disciples. This final lesson was about servant leadership. Jesus wanted His disciples to learn that to serve God meant to serve all who were in need. God's love for His children was about to be revealed in the sacrifice of His own Son for the sins of all humanity. It is in serving that we demonstrate that our spirit and God's Spirit are united.

I have often wondered why, after three years of being with Jesus on a daily basis, the disciples failed so often to understand what Jesus was trying to teach them. Was the problem one of perspective? Jesus' agenda was very different it seems from that of the disciples. The disciples wanted a new kingdom established here on earth just as King David had ruled over. They wanted freedom from the tyranny of Rome and benign rule by a godly king. They believed that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah, but they did not see him as the sacrificial Lamb of God, they saw him as an anointed king. Jesus however knew that the role of the Messiah was to heal the lame, give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and good news to the people. Jesus also knew that the greatest act of love anyone could perform was to

lay down his life for someone else. The Messiah, Jesus, came to do what no one else could do because as God's Son he would be both the perfect sinless sacrifice and also able to be resurrected from the dead. Many people struggle to understand this today. Is it any wonder that the disciples also had trouble understanding Jesus' mission.

We live in a culture today that is skeptical of the claims of religion. One of the reasons for this is the way the "church" has so often been guilty of acts of violence. There have been great religious persecutions, there have been countless wars fought in the name of God, and unstable religious leaders have led countless people to suicide and violent deaths. Yet if we study the Bible we find that the most defining characteristic of God, Jesus in his earthly ministry, and the Holy Spirit in action in the world is love. It is human kind's brokenness that has misused and abused the name and nature of God in the world. The heinous acts of religions leaders in the past can not be justified by claims of heresy or other empty religious pronouncements. What is truth and real exists apart from the mindless agendas of those who would pervert God's action in the world.

Is it time for you to seek out a true loving relationship with God? Let God's Word and Spirit draw you into his love.