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오늘의 말씀

"Love Goes Deeper Than the Judgement"

[John 13:34~35]

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (35) "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

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Introduction

Brothers and sisters, as we live the life of faith for a long time, there is a surprising change that happens. Our way of seeing people becomes more and more judgmental. Who is right, who is lacking, what the problem is... we begin to see these things more clearly. But at some point, we begin to feel that this "discernment" flows not into love, but into judgment. Let us ask ourselves. "Am I loving right now?" "Or am I judging?" Today, Jesus gives us a very important standard. "If you love one another, by this all will know that you are My disciples."

Exposition of the Text

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another"

[John 13:34] "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

Here, what is more important than "love" is "as I have loved you." The standard of love is not me, but Jesus.

Think about the setting of this moment. When was this word given? Right after Judas left. On the night when betrayal began, Jesus speaks of love. This is the love of Jesus. A love without condition, a love not shaken by circumstances, a love that goes to the end.

People usually respond based on how others treat them. If treated well, they love; if hurt, they keep distance. But the love of Jesus is different. It is love that says, "Even so, I will love."

"By this all will know that you are My disciples"

[John 13:35] "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

By what does the world judge the church? Not by "how correct we are," but by "how much we love." This is the standard the world uses.

Our identity is revealed not by correctness, but by love. Correctness may persuade people, but love transforms people. And what is more, the standard of what we think is right may not apply to everyone. Because of this, many people are hurt.

Paul explains the reality of love more concretely in 1 Corinthians 13. Let us now consider the reality of love through Paul's teaching.

[1 Corinthians 13:4–7] Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; (5) does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; (6) does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; (7) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

“Love suffers long [μακροθυμῆ]” ~ To suffer long means to give the other person time to change.

Think about Peter. Peter denied Jesus three times. Through our early morning study in John, we learned that Peter's denial was not a mere mistake, but a deliberate act of his will. The questions asked to Peter were not legal interrogations that would bind him by law. Yet Peter strongly denied with a double negative—“never ever.” And at the end, he even swore.

In that process, his pride, his comparison with others, and his sense of superiority were all exposed. From a human perspective, these were very difficult things to forgive. But Jesus did not give up. He did not rebuke or interrogate Peter, nor did He judge and condemn him. Instead, He gave him a chance to restore. When Peter could only answer with “phileo” to the question of “agapao,” Jesus lowered the question to “phileo.” And in the end, He restored Peter. This is long-suffering love.

“Love is gentle” ~ It does not speak harshly. Its attitude is soft. We see an angry crowd bringing a woman caught in adultery before Jesus.

[John 8:4–5] they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was

caught in adultery, in the very act. (5) "Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"

Their voices were filled with rage. They wanted to stone both the woman and Jesus. Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground. He gave them time to reflect on themselves. We do not know what He wrote, but it must have led them to realize that they were not qualified to throw stones. They dropped their stones and left. Then Jesus said to the woman:

[John 8:10–11] When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

(11) She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Jesus does not compromise truth. He speaks truth clearly, but He does not destroy the person. To Jesus, a person is always precious, so precious that He would die on the cross.

Many years ago, my older sister was driving her young grandson to pick up a pastor. As soon as the pastor got into the car, the child held his nose and said, "Pastor, your mouth smells like poop." You can imagine how embarrassed she was. So she gave him a candy and said, "Pastor, you must be so tired. You've been working so hard that your mouth smells sweet. Please have this." This is the difference between a child and a mature adult. We need such gentleness.

[Ephesians 4:2] with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

"Love does not behave rudely" ~ Even if we know everything and do everything right, we have no right to be rude to others. Gentleness is an attitude that respects relationships. If you want to understand this, remember how Jesus treated the Samaritan woman.

[John 4:9] Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is

it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

What she said was correct. At that time, Jews did not associate with Samaritans. Men did not speak to women. Women were not even counted.

Yet Jesus spoke to her with respect. And in the end, He won her soul.

"Love is not provoked" ~ It does not express rising emotions as they are, because it chooses not to break relationships. We must remember how Jesus sought out His failed disciples and restored them one by one.

"Love thinks no evil [λογίζεται]" ~ The root word is "logizomai," from which the English word "to log" comes.

It means "to record, to keep a record." It refers to writing down others' wrongs in a ledger. Love does not do that. It does not keep accounts to repay later.

The greatest example of this love is seen in Jesus' forgiveness on the cross.

[Luke 23:34] Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

Even in the deepest pain, He did not record their wrongs. Instead, He prayed for them.

Why is judgment easier than love?

Judgment is easy. It lifts us up, makes us feel right, and gives quick conclusions. But love is difficult. It requires laying ourselves down, waiting, and understanding. So judgment is fast, but love is slow.

We must compare our perspective with that of Jesus. Our eyes first see what is wrong. They first see what is lacking. But Jesus first sees potential. He sees restoration.

In Peter's betrayal, we see a "traitor." But when the rooster

crowded, Jesus looked at Peter as a “restored disciple.”

Conclusion

Brothers and sisters, as faith matures, it should not become sharper, but softer. We must not become people who judge more, but people who embrace more. We are not to become those who do things well, but those who carry the heart of Jesus.

~ When I look at people, what do I see first?

~ Is judgment more comfortable for me, or love more natural?

~ Am I keeping a record of someone in my heart?

Prayer Points

A. Lord, give me a heart that loves rather than judges

B. Let me see potential rather than weakness

C. Help me lay down the records in my heart

D. Let me see people through the eyes of Jesus

E. Let our church be known as a community of love