March 1, 2015

**“Eyewitness Views”
*Eyewitness: Pastor Erik***

**Part 2**

**“A Love Worth Dying For!”**

***“Peter said, ‘Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you.’” Luke 22:33***

 ***“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:35***

#  **What happens when your  says “Yes!” and your  says “No!”??**

***“’But why can’t I come now, Lord?’ he asked. ‘I’m ready to die for you.’” John 13:37***

1. There are times when I want to do the right thing but my is so weak and I fail!
2. There are times when I am determined to keep , no matter what the circumstances, and then I fall!
3. There are times when I myself to determinedly not fall into that pattern again…fear, worry, anger, jealousy, envy temptation…and here I am again!
4. There are times when I am confident that my is strong enough to hold…and here I am!

***“’No!’ Peter declared emphatically. ‘Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!’ And all the others vowed the same.” Mark 14:31***

1. **Jesus knew his disciples, in spite of**

 **...**

1. He knew their .

***“Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them.” Luke 22:24***

1. Jesus knew their .

***“But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray me. Luke 22:21***

***”On the way, Jesus told them, ‘All of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, ‘God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’” Mark 14:27***

1. He gave every for repentance.

***“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.” Luke 22:31-32***

***“Jesus responded, ‘It is the one to whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl.’ And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot.” John 13:26***

1. He loved to the !

***“None of the others at the table knew what Jesus meant.” John 13:28***

1. **Jesus …**

***“I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you…Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.” John 13:15,17***

1. By , for us to follow.
2. , without thought for Himself.
3. , without limit to pain or demands.
4. , with full knowledge of each one.
	1. He knew Peter’s .
	2. He knew Peter’s .
	3. He knew Peter’s . He saw the hero in the coward…He saw the victor in the victim…He saw the overcomer in the defeated…He saw power to become in spite of his failure!
5. , in spite of their blindness, insensitivity, slow to learn, lack of understanding, or weak wills.
6. In spite of their , as there was no failure he couldn’t forgive!

*“He has the love to see what we can be and the power to make us attain it.” William Barclay*

1. **My prayer: “Lord, give me a love like Yours!”**
2. At a moment of , power, and glory, Jesus washed their feet!

***“Lord, give me a servant’s heart to love others.”***

1. At a moment when His own was the greatest, he was not distracted from the bigger mission of love.

***“Lord, help me to see beyond my own hurts and give me a freedom to love beyond myself!”***

1. At a moment when those to Him would abandon Him, betray Him, and disown Him, he was not distracted from loving each one of them.

***“Lord, help me to have forgiveness rather than bitterness. Help me to see that all things are for my good when I trust in You! Help me to love those who hurt me!”***

1. At a moment when in this world could have been a distraction, He prayed for us that we would love one another!

***“Lord, let Your love in me prove to the world that I am one of Your disciples!”***