

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*

#### A. What happens when your heart says

**“Yes!” and your head 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 will is so weak and I fail!
2. There are times when I am determined to keep faithful, no matter what the circumstances, and then I fall!
3. There are times when I commit 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 faith 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*

#### B. Jesus knew his disciples, in spite of themselves...

1. He knew their weakness.

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

2. Jesus knew their sin.

*“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*

3. He gave every opportunity 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*

4. He loved to the end!

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

#### C. Jesus loved...

*“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 example, for us to follow.
2. Selflessly, without thought for Himself.
3. Sacrificially, without limit to pain or demands.
4. Understandingly, with full knowledge of each one.
  - a. He knew Peter’s weakness.
  - b. He knew Peter’s love.
  - c. He knew Peter’s potential. 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. Forgivingly, in spite of their blindness, insensitivity, slow to learn, lack of understanding, or weak wills.
6. In spite of their cowardice, 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*

#### D. My prayer: “Lord, give me a love like Yours!”

1. At a moment of intensity, power, and glory, Jesus washed their feet!

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

2. At a moment when His own pain 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!”*

3. At a moment when those closest to Him would abandon Him, betray Him, and disown Him, he was 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!”*

4. At a moment when everything 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!”*