

2012 Series “So Loved” (#05)
“New Covenant Love”

During the month of Feb., our lesson theme is “So Loved” taken from (Jn.3:16).

Today’s lesson text comes from the Upper Room Discourse of (Jn.13-17), which occurred on the eve of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and Jewish Passover (Jn.13:1-3). I find it interesting that John gave the longest account of the Upper Room Discourse and no account of the Eucharist. Yet he gave an extensive introduction to the New covenant and it was John who introduced Jesus’ teaching of the New Covenant Love.

This lesson will study five aspects of the John’s introduction of New Covenant Love.

1. John notes that Judas indwelt by Satan left just before Jesus began His discourse on New Covenant (NC) Love (Jn.13:21-30).

All four gospels mentioned this betrayal but John gave details.

(Jn.13:31a) “Therefore when (hote) he (Judas) was gone out (exerchomai / a.a.a.ind.3ps) Jesus said, ‘**Now.**’” And then gave His New Covenant (NC) discourse; (Jn.13:31-17:26).

Once again it was John who gave the details of the **psomion ceremony** (sop) at the Last Supper (Jn.13:21—30); and Judas’ betrayal as fulfillment of the messianic prophecy of (Ps.41:9) (Jn.13:10), (Jn.13:18-20).

Paul introduced the NC Eucharist with this same betrayal:

(1 Cor.11:23) “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus **in the night in which He was betrayed** took bread.”

Before becoming the **betrayed**, Judas had become the **pretender**. Judas pretended to be saved; to be a disciple of Jesus; to be concerned for the poor; and not to be covetous of money. However, in the end, he could not fool himself. Sadly, he chooses suicide rather than abundant eternal life.

(Jn.10:10) “I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.” (Matt.27:1-10)

2. It is interesting that John only mentioned love six times in chapters 1-12

- (Jn.3:16) (Jn.11:5)
- (Jn 8:42) (Jn.11:5:36)
- (Jn 10:17) (Jn.12:43)

However, John mentioned it **31 times** in the Upper Room Discourse; in chapters.13-17.

- (Jn.13:23, 34, 34, 34, 35)
- (Jn.14:15, 21, 21, 21, 21, 23, 23, 24, 28, 31)
- (Jn.15: 9, 9, 9, 10, 10, 12, 12, 13, 17, 19)
- (Jn.16:27, 27)
- (Jn.17:23, 23, 24, 26)

The other Gospel writers introduced the NC by the **Eucharist cup** at the Last Supper (Matt.26:27; Mark 14:23-24; Luke 22:19-20). (1 Cor.11:25) “This cup is the **new covenant in My blood**; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” However, John introduce the NC by the New Commandment of agape love (John 13:34-35).

3. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was the transition between the Old Covenant and the New Covenants.

(Matt.27:51-53) “And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.”

Book of Hebrews teaches that the NC is greater than the OC.

(Heb.9:6-15) “He is also the mediator of a **better covenant**, which has been enacted on better promises.”

(Heb.10:14-20) “Then He said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will.’ He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Heb.10:9-10) (Jn.1:29); (1 Pet.1:18; 2:24); (1 Jn.2:2)

4. The OC commandment of love was designed to fulfill the Law of Moses and to point mankind towards Christ (Rom.3:20-24; Gal.3:13, 24; 5:13-15) (Lev.19:18).

Jesus said that the entire OC could be fulfilled by two OC commandments of love (Lev.19:18) and (Deut.6:5) (Matt.22:36-40).

Book of Hebrew teaches that Jesus Christ is greater than Moses and that the NC is greater than the OC.

(Heb.3:3) “For He has been **counted worthy of more glory than Moses**, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house.” (Heb.3:1-6)

(Rom.8:2-4) “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

5. New commandment of love introduced the New Covenant of grace (1 Jn.3:1, 11, 16, 18, 23).

- **Commandment:** “A new commandment I give (didomi / p.a.ind 1ps) to you (humin / dplm / dative of advantage) **that** (hina) [divine purpose] you love (agapao / p.a.subj.2pl) one another (allelon) [another of the same kind] (Jn.13:34a). (Jn.15:12, 17); (1 John 4:21),
- **Comparison:** “**Even as** (kathos) [adverb of comparison / the model] **I have loved** (agapao / a.a.ind.1ps) **you**, **that** (hina) [divine result] you also love (agapao / p.a.subj.2pl) one another” (Jn.13:34b) (1 Jn.3:16; Eph.5:1-2),
- **Commitment:** “**By (en+inst. means) this** (the model) all men will know (ginosko / f.m.ind.3pl) **that** (hoti / declarative) you are (eimi / p.a.ind.2pl) **My disciples, if** (3cc / volition) you have (echo / p.a.subj.2pl) love for one another” (Jn.13:35) (Gal.3:26-28); (Rom.3:22); (Col.3:11); (1 Cor.12:13)
- **Comforter:** New Covenant Love is supernaturally produced by the **indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit** (Jn.14:15-17); (1 Jn.4:9, 19); (Rom.5:5); (1 Cor.6:19-20); (Gal.5:16, 22).

(Rom.8:3-4) “For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”