

As I recently taught on John's Gospel, chapter 13, I purposely chose not to focus on verses 1-3.

¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God,

Notice the 2-time indicators:

Verse 1 → "Now before the Feast . . .

Verse 2 → "During the Supper . . .

So Verse 1 is John's introduction and transition into the Passover Meal. Verse 1 contains:

A statement of the present: "Jesus knew that His hour had come . . ."

A statement of past: "Having loved his own . . ."

A statement of the future: "He loved them to the end."

It is the statement of the past that ought to grab our attention: "having loved his own who were in the world." Now I want you to grab the significance of this. This part of John's ministry is a bridge from Christ's public ministry (Chapters 1-12) to His passion ministry. **In other words, the phrase "having loved his own who were in the world is a description of His public ministry."** His ministry from Chapter 13 onward is described by John as "He loved them to the end."

I have preached nearly 60 sermons on John 1-12. Think back in your minds from the wedding at Cana, the interview with

Nicodemus, to the feeding of the 5000, to the raising of Lazarus. How would you sum up the ministry of Christ in 10 words or less? How did John do it? “Having loved his own who were in the world.”¹

God’s love for the world has one purpose and that is to take people out of the world and make them His own. Those taken out of the world form a new community: His Body. When all is said and done, John’s inspired summary of the life and ministry of Jesus was: **Having loved His own.**

You and I will someday stand before our risen, exalted Savior. We will fall in worship as we see our Lord face to face. Faith will become sight. Sin shall be no more. And as you look back over the years that Christ has given you, I suspect that you will conclude with John, “having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.”

Every trial will be vanquished.
Every tear will be dried.
Every heartache will be healed.

And the only memory that will survive will be, “He has loved his own who were in the world. He loved them to the end.”

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Jn 13:1). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

