

SELFLESS

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As I reflected on the night when Jesus had his last supper with his disciples, one of the things that caught my attention is that Judas was still part of that last supper. In John 13:11, we clearly see that Jesus knew Judas already betrayed him. Yet, even in spite of that, Jesus still invited him to that intimate gathering, washed his feet, and ate with him. Why so? As I scurry for answers, one verse caught me, John 13:1. It says there, "... 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** [emphasis mine]." Jesus loved Judas. And, Judas was not outside the scope of Jesus' love. That is why Jesus still dined with him and washed his feet. An extraordinary display of love, indeed, as well as humility. And, definitely selflessness.

Considering these together with the passages that we have taken up in the book of Romans, I believe the constant reminder from the Lord is to encourage others by selflessly loving people just as Jesus selflessly loved us even with our flaws and sinfulness - which is not easy by the way, but rather proven quite difficult. We have seen this recently with the just concluded elections. People unfriending friends of so many years,

relationships in the family being torn, and it seems, beyond the support, there was so much hate coming from opposing sides in the political arena. But, no matter who you rooted for, the reminder stays the same: to love selflessly just as Jesus loved you selflessly, as well. To love people who have opposed you. To love the people you dislike. To perceive the power and love of our God and respond to that by giving glory to God and loving people for His namesake.

Now, moving forward to the leadership transition we are undergoing, I considered eight practical things we can do to selflessly love, which I believe can be done especially this season, but also in whatever season we are in as we heed to God's call. First, **Submit to God's Sovereignty**. Accepting that what we want to happen isn't always what God will allow. Second, **Encourage the discouraged**. In this season of storming discouragements, be that ray of encouragement. Third, **Listen intently**. In an era where everyone has a lot to say, be the person who listens intently especially to the hurting. Fourth, **Forgive those who offend**. Just as we are forgiven by Christ, we too are to forgive. Fifth, **Lead them to Christ**. Where some have lost hope, it is an opportunity for us to lead them to the one in

whom we should place all our hope in.. Sixth, **Enable them to express their emotions**. There are times where people just want someone who will journey with them as they express and process their emotions. Seventh, **Seek those who are in need**. There are some who suffer quietly and in isolation. Let's pray for discernment as we seek out for these people and be the person whom they can trust and feel safe with. And Lastly, **Say sorry if you did wrong**. Being selfless, we also have to acknowledge that we make mistakes and doing so gives an opportunity to reach out to others too.

With those eight practical things to do, the point is we are called to be **S.E.L.F.L.E.S.S.** As we look at the eight things I mentioned, we can clearly say that being selfless is no easy task. Actually, it is not just a task that can be completed, but a lifelong journey we are to struggle for until the Lord calls us home. Therefore, it is of so much importance that we depend on God to the end. To draw strength, motivation and joy from Him. Because, again, Jesus modeled selfless love for us that we might grow to have one, too (John 13:15). So, my prayer for us is that we may grow in Christlikeness as we grow in our selflessness! ✱