

# “The Faithfulness of Christ in an Unfaithful World”

Maundy Thursday Message 2025

By: Connor Johnson

**Sermon Title:** “Faithful Love in a Failing World”

**Focal Text:** Luke 22:14–23 (NLT)

**Main Theme:** When everyone else would’ve left, Jesus stayed — at the table, at their feet, and in the garden. His faithful love endured failure, betrayal, and agony — and still chose to stay.

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## INTRODUCTION

- We live in a world where **faithfulness is fragile**.
  1. People walk away when it gets hard.
  2. Promises are broken. Commitments fade.
- But Jesus is different.
  1. On the night of His betrayal, **surrounded by weakness and failure... He stayed**.
    - He stayed at the **table** with the ones who would betray and deny Him.
    - He stayed at their **feet** to serve them.
    - He stayed in the **garden** to surrender to the Father’s will.
- Tonight, we’ll walk through these three moments:
  1. The **Table** — *Love that welcomes the weak.*
  2. The **Towel** — *Love that serves the undeserving.*
  3. The **Garden** — *Love that surrenders when it hurts.*

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### 1. HE STAYED AT THE TABLE – LOVE THAT WELCOMES THE WEAK

**Read Text: Luke 22:14–23**

#### A. Jesus shares the **Last Supper** with His disciples.

- Judas is there — *betrayal* in motion.
- Peter is there — *denial* coming soon.
- The others will fall *asleep* and *scatter*.
- And still... *Jesus doesn't leave the table*.

“When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table.” — *Luke 22:14*

- This is **grace in motion**.
  - Jesus stays, knowing full well who is sitting around Him.
  - **Grace is not given after we get it all right - it's given while we're still in process.**

#### B. The Bread and the Cup: A Covenant with the Broken

“This is my body, given for you...” — *Luke 22:19*

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood...” — *Luke 22:20*

- Jesus offers a **new covenant**:
  - Not based on **our promises**, but on **His blood**.
  - Not earned, but received.

#### Key Truths:

- Jesus knows you at your *worst* — and still offers you His *best*.
- There's still a seat at the table for you, no matter how far you've fallen.
- The table is a reminder that **He is more committed to us than we are to Him**.

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### 2. HE STAYED AT THEIR FEET – LOVE THAT SERVES THE UNDESERVING

**Text: John 13:1–17**

*“Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.” John 13:1*

- Jesus gets up from the table, kneels down, and washes their feet.
- Why is this important? The King of the universe kneeling like a servant.
  - Foot washing = lowest servant’s task.
  - This was shocking, unexpected, and countercultural.

#### A. Who did He serve?

- **Peter** – about to deny Him.
- **Judas** – already plotting betrayal.
- **The others** – who would run.

*“He began to wash... and to wipe...” — John 13:5*

Deliberate, humble, steady love.

- Jesus flipped the entire value system of the world upside down.
  - The **world** says, “**Climb higher.**”  
Jesus says, “**Go lower.**”  
The **world** says, “**Make others serve you.**”  
Jesus says, “**Serve others — even when they don’t deserve it.**”

#### Key Truths:

- Jesus served **those who would fail Him.**
- He didn’t stop short. He didn’t skip anyone. Including the very man who betrayed Him.
- He modeled **servant-hearted love**:
  - Not based on worth, but on choice.
  - Not out of obligation, but out of overflow.

*“Do as I have done to you.” — John 13:15*

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### 3. HE STAYED IN THE GARDEN – LOVE THAT SURRENDERS WHEN IT HURTS

**Text: Matthew 26:36–46**

*“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.” — Matthew 26:38*

- Jesus goes to Gethsemane — “the olive press.”
  - He is emotionally and spiritually **crushed**.
  - The weight of sin, wrath, and separation is pressing down.

*“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” — Matthew 26:39*

- He could’ve walked away:
  - His disciples were asleep.
  - Heaven was silent.
  - The suffering was near.
- But **He stayed**.
  - He stayed **in surrender**.
  - He stayed **in obedience**.
  - He stayed **in love**.

*“He learned obedience through what He suffered.” — Hebrews 5:7–8*

#### Key Truths:

- Jesus didn’t run from pain — He walked toward it in love.
- He chose what was best for **us**, not what was easiest for **Him**.
- When we feel tempted to run from hardship — Jesus *understands*.
  - And the strength that helped Him stay is **available to us** too.

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### RECAP – FAITHFUL LOVE IN A FAILING WORLD

- Jesus could've left — but **He stayed**.
  - At the **table** — with the broken.
  - At their **feet** — in humble service.
  - In the **garden** — in full surrender.

*"Having loved His own... He loved them to the end." — John 13:1*

- His love isn't earned. It's not fragile. It's faithful.

### APPLICATION / CALL TO RESPONSE

- Will **you** stay?
  - **Stay at the table** — even when you **feel unworthy**?
  - **Stay with the towel** — even when it **costs you**?
  - **Stay in the garden** — even when **obedience feels heavy**?
- His love is reaching for you — not after you clean up, but **right now**.

### CLOSING INVITATION

- Maybe you've scattered... denied... drifted... doubted.
- But the message tonight is this: **He stayed — and He's still here**.
  - There is **grace**.
  - There is **welcome**.
  - There is **love that finishes what it started**.

There is still room at Jesus' table for you.