

Commentary on the Gospel for Thu, Apr 5th 2012

In Jesus' conversation at the Last Supper, the word 'love' occurs 31 times, 'life' 6, and 'light' none at all. There is however, a significant mention of 'darkness': "Judas left...and it was night" (Jn 13:30).

It is easy to love in an atmosphere of light and joy; the test is when hardships come. A scholar describes the Last Supper discourse: "Jesus disregards himself and his suffering, and shows only love for his own and compassion for their future trials. His words, mingling tenderness, restrained melancholy and triumphant certainty of victory, are set between two actions, one of humble service (washing their feet) and the other of prayer. For all time it is a model of grace under pressure."

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