

# POINT AFTER

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14140 Midway Rd., Suite 102, Dallas, TX 75244-3672 • 214-654-0042, Fax 214-920-3699 • [www.coachesoutreach.org](http://www.coachesoutreach.org)

## PURE PASSION

by Tommy Maxwell  
Executive Director



*Passion.* It's a word that seems to describe the best in all of us. Passion is a word connected to *love* and *sacrifice*. And these words best describe our latest study on the last days of Jesus on earth, **Pure**

### **Passion – the Fusion of Love and Sacrifice.**

I can remember my first spiritual mentor telling me, "Catch on fire for Jesus, and people will come to watch you burn." When the coaches in this study see Jesus burn with love and sacrifice in the last hours of his life, we pray they will all catch on fire too.

The writer does a wonderful job helping us understand the importance of Jesus's passionate focus. That focus centers around 1) serving others, and 2) depending on the Holy Spirit. Two passages used in the study enhance the Lord's focus. In Luke 22:24-28 we read: *A dispute also started among [the disciples] over which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. So Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them are called 'benefactors.' Not so with you; instead the one who is greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the one **who serves**. For who is greater, the one who is seated at the table or the*

*one **who serves**? Is it not the one who is seated at the table? But I am among you as one **who serves**.*

The follow-up passage in the next "Day" lesson was when Jesus washed the disciple's feet. The amazing thing you see from the study is how little the disciples really understood regarding the necessity of Christ's death on the cross. The disciples were *arguing*, for heaven's sake, over who would have the best place in what they believed would be a "conquering kingdom." This while Jesus could "see" his crucifixion happening just hours away!

Here's the APPLICATION question we asked the coaches at the end of this Day 3 lesson, "**What cultural pride-driven leadership standards/habits must you defy so you can live and lead as a humble servant.**" Not a bad question considering how much you are judged on the skills of developing 17-year olds. As the author put it, "Jesus brought a new resume standard for leadership."

The other important point that Jesus was passionate about was our need to **depend on the Holy Spirit**

(Jn. 13:23-26). *Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and take up residence with him. The person who does not love me does not obey my words. And the word you hear is not mine, but the Father's who sent me. I have spoken these things while staying with you. But the **Advocate**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and will **cause** you to remember everything.*

**I can remember my first spiritual mentor telling me, "Catch on fire for Jesus and people will come to watch you burn."**

This is part of a larger passage in Week 5, Day 2 of our new study. The power of the indwelling Spirit brought a new concept to the disciples that they would understand

more clearly after the death and resurrection of our Lord. They would have a sense of what every Christian understands when God, through the Holy Spirit, opens their eyes to the gospel truth. The Holy Spirit "caused" us to believe (Jn. 6:44) and "causes" us to remember and understand more and more about ourselves and the world around us.

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