

John 13.1-17

The Servant King

Young Farmer trying to LEAD STUBBORN DONKEY Down St. in Small Town
 DONKEY > Dug in its Heals > REFUSED to MOVE
 OLDER Farmer > Understood Problem > ‘Do you mind if I try and move Donkey?’
 Took CLUB > Swung it Full Strength, CRACKED on Donkey’s Head
 Then said, ‘Gee Haw’ > and DONKEY MOVED VERY WILLINGLY
 Older to Younger > Donkey’s won’t Listen, if you don’t GET Attention FIRST

Some Ways > DISCIPLES are Like Donkey’s > Stubborn, Ignorant, Resistant
 Shift in John > from PUBLIC Ministry to PRIVATE – Jesus w/ 12, then 11

Jesus SOON to LEAVE > NEEDS to GET THEIR ATTENTION!!
 KEY to Continuation of Gospel > Building of Church > Advance of Kingdom
 Gets Attn. KINDLY > Not with CLUB, but a TOWEL and BASIN of Water

1. Pardon: Cleansed by the Cross 2. Pattern: Sent to Serve

1. Pardon: Cleansed by the Cross

a. Chosen SECRET SUPPER > Locked Doors > BY INVITATION ONLY

When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them. John 12.36
 END THREE YEARS of PUBLIC MINISTRY > Calling Israel into HIS LIGHT

God has done *some things for all men*, everyone in the world. He has created them
 and sustained them....On the other hand, God has done *all things for some men*.
 These are His own. They do not lack, and will never lack, any good thing.
 James Boice

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to
 them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."
 Luke 22.14,15

vs. 10,11 And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was
 going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

v. 18 "I am not referring to all of you; *I know those I have chosen.*"

OBJECT of God’s Love in Christ > Disciples, PEOPLE of God, New Community

Jesus has taken unto Himself a special people, the church. These are his bride. It is entirely fitting and even expected that He should have special, loving, and touchingly tender words for them only. James Boice

b. Complete ONE of GREAT VERSES of BIBLE > Banner Verse chs 13-21

v. 1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

COMPLETE LOVE of God in Christ > GRACE: Unmerited Favor
God's LOVE > Without REASON, Without VARIATION, Without END

PAST: 'having loved' PRESENT: 'he loved' FUTURE: 'until the end'

Love without Limit v. 1 'FULL EXTENT' > ABSOLUTE LIMIT

PROPER ETTIQUITE > SERVANT Washed FEET of ARRIVING GUESTS
Walked on Dusty Paths wearing Sandals > Must be GENTILE SLAVE, not JEW

The foot washing was shocking to Jesus' disciples, but not half as shocking as the notion of a Messiah who would die the hideous and shameful death of crucifixion, the death of the damned. D.A. Carson

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4.10

c. Conspiracy > ONE whose FEET HE WASHED > Will BETRAY HIM

v. 2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus

Strong CONTRAST > v. 1 Jesus MOVED by LOVE / v. 2 Judas moved by Satan

John's Gospel tells Most about Judas > PROMPTED > but he is NOT a PAWN

God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled. Revelation 17.17

DEVIL & JUDAS > Conspiracy of EVIL > to Bring Jesus TO THE CROSS

ALL POWER! Does He BLAST JUDAS with Wrath? No! He Washes his FEET!
Jesus action STUNNING, SHOCKING, Demonstration of HUMILITY and LOVE

Judas' resistance of Jesus, his surrender to the spirit of avarice, his thwarted ambition, his disenchantment with Jesus' disavowal of political power, or whatever else was the taproot of his decision to betray his Master, gave the devil an opportunity.

Bruce Milne

d. Conscious Sovereign, Unrivaled Authority: All Things under His Power

v. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put *all things under his power*

Washed Feet > BECAUSE HE WAS GOD > Demonstrate VERY LOVE of GOD

v. 4 he so he got up from the meal, *laid down* his outer clothing

I lay down my life for the sheep...*I lay down* my life-only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but *I lay it down* of my own accord. I have authority to *lay it down* and authority to take it up again.

John 10.15-18

He so dons our flesh and goes open-eyed to the cross that his deity is revealed in our flesh...supremely at the moment of greatest weakness, greatest service.

D.A. Carson

JESUS Rules Over: CAIPHAS, CROWDS, JUDAS, PILATE, SANHEDRIN

The Father has not become a bystander, removed from the evil which is closing in on His Son. He is with Him and has given Him authority and power to finish the work for which He has come.

Roger Fredrikson

The fuller the ear is of rice-grain, the lower it bends.

Malay proverb

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8.9

e. Classless

Disciples > Thinking of their own GRAND POSITIONS in COMING KINGDOM

Ready to FIGHT for a THRONE, but NOT for a TOWEL

A dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.

Luke 22.24

NONE took INITIATIVE > Each EXPECTED the OTHER ONE to do Dirty Job

Once upon a time, there were four people; their names were Everybody, Somebody, Nobody and Anybody. Whenever there was an important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized that Nobody would do it. So consequently Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.

The water-pitcher, the wash-basin, and the apron-towel, placed there in the plain sight of all, frowned upon them. These utensils constituted a silent accusation against these men! Still no one moved.

William Hendriksen

The chief is servant of all.

Kenyan proverb

v. 3 Jesus knew that...he had come from God and was returning to God

Origin: From God / Destiny: Going to God

Divine love leaped over the boundaries of class distinctions and made the Lord of Glory the servant of men.

Merrill Tenney

Master becomes Slave > Slave and Master are on SAME LEVEL

f. Conviction > What can you say when GOD WASHES YOUR FEET?

OTHER Disciples > Probably Ashamed, Embarrassed Silence, Nothing to Say!!

PETER was NEVER at a LOSS FOR WORDS > Opened Mouth to Change Feet

v. 6-8 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ... "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Too Humble for YOU to Wash MY Feet / Not So Humble to Not Command Jesus

g. Cleansing FOOT-WASHING > PREVIEW of the CROSS

v. 8 Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

SACRAMENTS and CEREMONIES CANNOT Save > Jesus washed Judas Feet

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood

Revelation 1.5

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior Titus 3.5,6

Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, that too is a necessary constituent of his suffering from conception to burial, whereby he merits salvation for his people.

William Hendriksen

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6.9-11

h. Continuous Born Again: Once // Come to Christ for Cleansing: Always

v. 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

GREAT ZEAL of Peter > GIVING CLEANSING?? SHAMPOO and PEDICURE!

v. 10 Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean."

vs. 5,6,8,12,14 > nipto = to wash part of the body // v. 10 louo = bath all over
ONCE FOR ALL and CONTINUOUS > NEED A Bath and a Wash

More WASHINGS Do NOT Add to the 'Once for All' Saving Cross-work of Jesus

He sacrificed for their sins *once for all* when he offered himself. Hebrews 7.27

OT PRIEST > Entered Priesthood, Required Complete Washing:

This is what you are to do to consecrate them, so they may serve me as priests... bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and *wash them with water.* Exodus 29.1.4

Before Performing Priestly Duties, Needed Partial Cleansing:

The LORD said to Moses, "Make a bronze basin, with its bronze stand, for washing. Place it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water in it. Aaron and his sons are to *wash their hands and feet* with water from it...when they approach the altar to minister Exodus 30.17-21

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1.9

ONCE FOR ALL Cleansing is BASIS of DAILY CLEANSING > Assurance

v. 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

FULL UNDERSTANDING > Would COME LATER > Gift of Spirit and Word

LAST WORD from PETER in BIBLE: Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. 2 Peter 3.18

i. Conquering JESUS the SERVANT is JESUS the SOVEREIGN

FACED PAINFUL ADVERSITY > from People AND these DISCIPLES

v. 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said *not every one was clean.*

JESUS to PETER: I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times! John 13.38

A FEW HOURS LATER: Then everyone deserted him and fled. Mark 14.50

Jesus Celebrates PASSOVER FEAST with Disciples > Hour has NOW COME

Jesus replied. "My *time has not yet come.*" John 2:4

...no one laid a hand on him, because his *time had not yet come* John 7.30

...no one seized him, because his *time had not yet come* John 8.20

Jesus replied, "The *hour has come* for the Son of Man to be glorified." John 12.23

v. 1 Jesus knew that the *time had come* for him to leave this world

HUMANLY > Suffering // GOD'S VIEWPOINT > Glory

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son ... Galatians 4.4

Now he has appeared *once for all at the end of the ages* to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself Hebrews 9.26

2. Pattern: Sent to Serve

a. Humility GREAT ACHIEVERS > Hard to ACCEPT LOWLY offer of GRACE

vs. 12,15 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them...*I have set you an example* that you should do as I have done for you.

Quarrelling Disciples Unaware GREATNESS > Measured by Humble SERVICE

Whoever wants to become *great* among you must be your *servant*, and whoever wants to be *first* must be your *slave* - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Matthew 20.26-28

PRIMARY BASIS of Christian Behavior is the EXAMPLE of Jesus

The cross is both the way of salvation and the key to community...Humility is a universal Christian virtue to be expressed through sincere and costly service of others in Christ's name. Christian churches are possible only where this attitude is expressed. They have no promise of permanence where it is lacking. Bruce Milne

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son... John 3.16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 1 John 3.16

Humility is the only soil in which graces root...The lack of humility is the sufficient explanation of every defect and failure. Andrew Murray

v. 8 Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

As long as we imagine we can get by without Christ's cleansing we cannot be saved. Pride must perish. We are helpless sinners for whom no amount of good works, religious exercises, or Christian ministries can atone. Only the blood of Christ can save us – his sacrifice offered for us on the cross, and received by an act of simple personal faith. Bruce Milne

...the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin 1 John 1.7

PTOLEMAIC Theory of ASTRONOMY > All things REVOLVE around EARTH
Followed for CENTURIES > SUPRISINGLY ACCURATE
Could Predict Sunrise / Sunset, New Moons, Course of other Planets (partially)
NO ROOM for MORE DISCOVERY > New Theories OUTRIGHT REJECTED

COPERNICAN Revolution > SUN, not Earth is Center of our Solar System
NECESSARY to Change > VERY HEART of UNDERSTANDING of REALITY
We are SERVANTS, Not MASTERS > Huge, Truthful PARADIGM SHIFT

Years Later: PERHAPS Peter THOUGHT of Jesus Clothed with TOWEL
All of you, *clothe yourselves with humility* toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
1 Peter 5.5

Little becomes Jesus' followers more than humility. Christian zeal divorced from transparent humility sounds hollow, even pathetic. D.A. Carson

b. Holiness

JUSTIFICATION / BATH > ONCE // SANCTIFICATION / WASH > OFTEN

We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10.10

Peter > NO, NEVER! > We Need HUMILITY to BE SERVED and TO SERVE ROMANS > No use for HUMILITY // GREEKS > Despised MANUAL LABOR

vs. 13,14 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, *you also should wash one another's feet.*

SOME CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS > Practice as RITUAL, CEREMONY
LIFESTYLE > Humble Service should CONSTANTLY Be PERFORMED

WORD OF GOD > MAKES US HOLY, CLEANSSES

You are already *clean because of the word* I have spoken to you. John 15.3

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the *washing with water through the word* Ephesians 5.25-26

How can a young man keep his way *pure*? By living according to your *word*.
Psalm 119.9

Jesus is LORD and TEACHER > Submission of our Minds to HIS TRUTH
His Words, Standards, Values, Attitudes, Commands, Example, and Teaching

SYMBOLS in John > Joy of Kingdom-wine, chapter 2
Spiritual Rebirth, chapter 3
Living Water, chapter 4
Bread from Heaven, chapter 6

>> SPIRITUAL CLEANSING > Pictured in Foot Washing, chapter 13

Jesus FOCUS Not OUTWARD RITUAL but INWARD ATTITUDE > Humility

The smile of God is upon such a person who is constantly doing these things, so that humility becomes the very essence of his character...so will possess the peace of God which passes all understanding. William Hendriksen

c. Happiness // BEATITUDES: Words of Blessing > HAPPY are YOU!

v. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus came and lived and died and rose again and was exalted not to bequeath to needy sinners a ritual, but himself, and all the blessings that flow from that gift.
D.A. Carson

Acted-Out PARABLE > MOTIVE and MISSION of Jesus > Love Crucified

KNOWING and DOING > Combination makes for SUCCESS

ICE SKATER > Trains years for Several Minute OLYMPIC PERFORMANCE
KNOW their Routine PERFECTLY, Think about Routine in THEIR SLEEP
BUT > Critical Moment > Before JUDGES & WORLD > Must DO IT for GOLD!

You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.
Augustine

Czar Nicolas I of RUSSIA > Wanted to help SON of GOOD FRIEND of His
Charge of FUNDS for PAYING SOLDIERS of Russian Army at BORDER FORT
BEGAN WELL > Gradually BAD HABITS: Gambling OWN Money AND Czar's
Began FEW RUBLES > Before Long > DEBT to CZAR was ASTRONOMICAL
One Night > Opened Books, Calculated ALL DEBTS, TERRIBLE FEAR
Wrote across Financial LEDGER "A great debt! Who can pay?"
Decided to KILL HIMSELF at 12 Midnight > Revolver Ready > Fell Asleep
NICOLAS Surprise Visits to Troops > Sometimes in Uniform of Common Soldier
Happened to COME THAT NIGHT > Entered Room of Young Man
Saw GREAT DEBT > Revolver > Young Man sleeping w/ Head on LEDGER
Nicolas HEART MOVED when Read: "A great debt! Who can pay?"
NEXT to QUESTION > Wrote 'Nicolas' > LEFT QUIETLY
Later Young Man Awoke > Picked up Gun > Just before Pulling Trigger > Saw IT
Ran to FILES which Contained Official Signature of CZAR > It was REAL!
'The Czar has been here tonight, discovered my debt, and forgave it all!'
The NEXT DAY > Royal Messenger from Palace brought Precise Amount Money
ONE GREATER than CZAR > Paid ALL our DEBTS in FULL

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature
God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made
himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became
obedient to death - even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest
place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every
tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2.5-11

* * * * *

John 13

1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

10 Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

1. Notice the clear shift from Jesus' public ministry (12.36) to His private ministry to the disciples (13.1). Does your ministry have a similar balance – reaching many and discipling a few?
2. What do Peter's objections (13.8) tell us about him? His true need before God? And, our own standing before God today?
3. We don't need a "bath," but we do need a "foot wash." Think about both the once-for-all gift of salvation and our on-going experience of salvation in Christ.
4. How can we show the Lord Jesus through humbly serving our families? Our ZGC family? Our unbelieving friends?