

Leading in Humble Service

John 13: 1 – 17

21 February 2021 A.M.

Series: Jesus' Last Week

John 13: 1 - 4

¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. ² During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, to betray Him, ³ *Jesus*, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, ⁴ got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. ⁵ Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

Jesus Knew and Loved. Vv. 1 - 4

- This event occurred before the Passover meal.
 - Jesus knew His hour had come.
 - Jesus was about to depart from this world.
 - Jesus loved His own perfectly or completely.
- Judas had already been turned by the Devil.
 - Still Jesus knew all things having been given to Him
 - Even with the traitor present, Jesus does the unthinkable to act as the lowest servant.
 - Jesus was about to demonstrate humility in a manner that would forever silence the positioning of the disciples.

John 13: 6 - 11

⁶ So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter.” ⁸ Peter said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” ⁹ Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, *then wash* not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.” ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all *of you*.” ¹¹ For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, “Not all of you are clean.”

Need for Daily Cleansing. Vv. 8 – 11.

- Jesus began to wash the disciple's feet.
 - They wouldn't even think of doing that for each other.
- Peter's protest: Never Lord!
 - Jesus said they would understand later.
 - Jesus said daily cleansing necessary for relationship.
- Peter's typical response: Bathe me!
 - Jesus said those already bathed need only the feet washed.
 - His point: the saved only need confess daily sins.
 - Judas being unsaved, didn't receive even daily cleansing.

John 13: 12 - 17

¹² So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?” ¹³ “You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. ¹⁶ “Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor *is* one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ “If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

The Point. Vv. 12 - 17

- Understand the example of the Master.
 - The master humbled himself in service.
 - He gave an example of humble service, not an ordinance for the church to continue to observe.
- Truly truly: listen up to this, be assured of this.
 - Slaves and sent ones are not greater than their masters.
 - If Jesus humbly served even an enemy, so should we.
 - We will learn that blessed happiness is found in humble service, not in just knowing but not doing.

Conclusion

- We learn of the great depth of Jesus' love toward us to so humble Himself to save our souls (cf. Philippians 2: 5 -1 0).
- Jesus teaches us of our need for daily cleansing even though we have already been saved.
- Jesus so humbled Himself demonstrating humble sacrifice even as the lowest slave to teach us to follow His example.
- Jesus' example of humble service teaches us to humbly serve each other and even our enemies.