

***Thou Shalt and We Will*** (JL-78) John 13:12-17  
Sunday, December 17, 2005

We have come to the final Passover meal, which Jesus *eagerly desired* to eat with His disciples.

The **synoptic accounts** of this evening explain how Jesus initiated the **Lord's Supper**.

John does **not** give this detail,  
instead John will focus on the **teachings** from that night.

He is more interested in *principles* and *significance*  
than with *specific events*.

With the *exception* of this one event,  
which John records and the others do not ...  
**the washing of the disciples' feet.**

In the **synoptic accounts** of the events of this evening,  
we read that before Jesus arrived, there was a **dispute**  
that took place among the disciples as to **who would be the greatest.**

What they do not mention, but **John does,**  
is the **ACTION** that Jesus takes  
to **rebuke** their lack of humility ...  
as He, Himself, the **Lord and Master** washes their feet.

As Jesus was preparing to suffer on the Cross,  
his **disciples were fighting among themselves**  
*who is the greatest disciple?*

- While they acted in **conceit** toward one another,  
their **Lord and Master** stooped down and  
**acted as *their* servant.**

**Jesus washed their feet.**

The feet of those who were **just sinning**  
by **boasting** in the **pride of their hearts**.

- It was the eye of His crucifixion,  
His **betrayer** is right there and Jesus knows this...

With all of this considered,  
it makes **Christ's humility** *even more astonishing*.

As He **washes** the feet of prideful, boastful, arrogant men  
On the eve when He would have **rightly** been **preoccupied**  
with *his own impending death*.

What Jesus does though, is **so much more** than *merely* a **rebuke of the foolishness** of the disciples ...

it is so **much more** than *merely* a **foot washing** ...

It was **more** than *simply* a **replacement** for the **hand-washing ceremony** of the Passover ...

this was **no mere ritual** going on here ...

- *Historically*, the church has **reduced** this passage's understanding  
to *merely* the **action** ...

Emphasizing the **establishment** of the sacrament of foot-washing.

But John is not interested in ceremony ...  
he is not interested in rituals, theatrical practices  
and sacraments ...

- Others take this story as nothing more than an **illustration** and **lesson**  
in **humility** and **Christian service**.

But it is much more!

This is a **parable in action**

This was a **foreshadow** of the **cross itself**,  
and a portrait of Christ as He **left His throne of heaven**  
to **take on flesh**, **become sin** and **die on a tree**.

In this passage we see *justification, forgiveness, sanctification,*  
*glorification, the deity of Christ, His humiliation as man*

### Chapter 13

In vivid detail, John **paints the picture** for us ... beginning in verse 1:

*Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*

*And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; rose from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.*

Jesus **rises from supper**, he **lays aside his outer garments** –

Just as the **Eternal Word of God**, *leaves the Father's bosom*,  
Where He is the *Father's delight*  
Where He **enjoyed** *perfect fellowship*  
He **divests Himself** of His *outward glory*.  
He **sets aside His eternal nature** ...

As Paul wrote:

*"Being in very nature God, he did not consider equality with God something to be grasped"*

*He took a towel and girded himself*

He assumed the place of a **lowly slave** –

*"He made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant"*

verse 5 ...

*After that he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then he came to Simon Peter: and Peter said unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?*

This **washing** symbolizes the **spiritual work of cleansing** that he was about to accomplish on Calvary's Cross.

What a beautiful **parable of his mission** in coming to this world: the Lord of Glory, God in the flesh, **strips off his kingly robe,** puts on the **garb of a menial servant,** condescends to humbly kneel to lovingly **wash the feet of his own.**

**What humility ...** yet it is only a prelude of the **greater humiliation** that will follow, 24 hours later, **as Jesus lays down his life on the Cross –**

*"He humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!"*

This is Jesus' mission in life.

This is **why** he came into the world – (Mark 10) **not to be served, but to serve,** and to **give his life as a ransom for many.**

continuing in verse 7 of John 13

*Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do, thou know not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.*

*Peter said unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.*

*Jesus said to him, He that is washed need only to wash his feet, but is completely clean: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.*

Here we see the **double washing** for the believer that Bill spoke about last week ...

*first, the **washing of his entire person** ...  
the once for all **washing** that comes when a man is  
*justified by faith alone.**

**But beyond this,**

Christ *loved the church* and *gave Himself up for her*,  
the book of Ephesians tells us  
*that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the  
washing of water by the Word ...*

The same portrait is painted in the **Old Testament** in the  
**sanctification** of the high priest ...

Though Aaron and his sons **were consecrated** ...  
they bathed their entire bodies, nevertheless,  
they needed to **wash** their **hands** and **feet** at the laver  
before entering the inner court of the **tabernacle**.

In the **New Testament**, when the Roman soldier *pierced the side*  
of the **dead Savior**, John, who was an **eye witness** to it,  
conveys what he saw:  
*“came there out blood and water.”*

Again a **picture**, that in the cross, the **blood**  
**satisfies the demand** of a **holy God** against sin  
and provides **propitiation**,

while the water meets the needs to sanctify a **defiled people**.

These are **pictures** of how **Christ serves** *us*,  
by *daily washing our feet* ...  
with the *water of the Word of God*

verse 12 ...

*So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?*

Today Jesus Christ asks us the same thing ...

*Do you know what I have done for you?*

Jesus Christ was **not content** with his disciples being completely clean ...

Likewise today, He is **not content** that you are “*saved.*”

It is never enough to say, “I’m saved, I’m going to heaven when I die.”

**Eternal life** is **not** something reserved for the *future* ...

Eternal life is KNOWING GOD ...

It is a living, abiding, continual walk with Jesus Christ.

It **not** a **decision** we once made

It is about **love** and **fellowship** with the **Almighty, Holy One** ...

in heaven, ... *yes,*

but *also* **right now, today, on earth.**

Jesus Christ **washed** His disciples feet *because*

**He cared** about **their fellowship** **IN THIS LIFE** ...

Later that evening, He would turn to

*His own, whom He loved unto the end, and say,*

*“no longer do I call you slaves, but I call you friends.”*

He could **not do this** *unless* He first **washed their feet.**

And He says the same thing to **us** today ...

Turn to Hebrews 9.

This philosophy of ... “*I’m saved and that’s all that matters ...  
I’m going to heaven when I die ... and that’s all that matters.*”

That’s **not** Christian.  
It **ignores** the *daily process* of **sanctification**.  
The *daily walk* of **life**.  
It **ignores** a **relationship** in the *here and now*.

Jesus Christ must **wash us with the Word** of God **today**  
**in this life** *if we are going to fellowship with Him!*

It is **non-optional**.

It was **not enough** *for Him*, that He *just saved us* ...  
So He must also **wash us** *daily* in the Scripture.

And every day we refuse to read the Word of God,  
we are being like Peter ... telling God ...  
“*Thou shalt not wash my feet!*”

Hbr 9:13-14

***... if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an  
heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the  
flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through  
the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge  
your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?***

The *blood of Jesus Christ* ... the **cross** ...  
not only **saves**, but **purifies!**

It **purges our conscience**.

It **must**, *if we will be able to draw near to God*.

It **must** *if we are going to be friends of God*.

Turn to Hebrews 10:22

*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,  
having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our  
bodies washed with pure water.*

We **must** experience the **daily** washing of the Word,  
to be able to draw near to God.

John 17 and Ephesians 5 tell us that the **means** of this washing  
is the **Word of Truth**, God's Word!

Every night when we go to bed,  
there is a **pail of water** by your bed side ...  
Jesus is there saying ... *I want to wash you ...*  
*I want to wash off the grime that you picked up from the world today*

And every time you instead of permitting Him this service,  
we turn on the TV or read the newspaper  
or turn on your computer, or whatever ... we're saying ...  
*"Thou shalt not wash my feet"*

God has given us **in His Word** a fuller's soap ...  
And we must bathe in it **daily**.

The context is sanctification!

That is the MANNER in which Christ serves.

He **SERVES** us by **washing us** ... by **sanctifying us**.

As holiness, **is not** keeping a bunch of blue laws,  
so **Christian service** is **not** stuffing envelopes for Jesus.  
Its not meeting a **phone call quota**  
Or as the JW's do, meeting a **quota** of door bells to ring.

Often when we hear of service or ministry,  
we *immediately* **think** of it as **what we do for the church**



Our *ministry* is **what we volunteer to do** to keep a ministry operating.

The **church** has taken as its model, corporate America,  
where everyone's "*service*" is **like their job**.

They **put in their hours**.

**God** is *supposed to be happy* because of what they do.

They are **fooled** to *believing* that their **sanctification**  
*is taking place* based upon their service ...

**But ... its deceptive.**

Because the **busiest** people in the church, *appear* the **holiest**.  
At least in people's eyes

We give them **titles** ... make them **feel important**.

They're **propped up** ... **lifted up** before others.

I am **deacon** *so and so*; this is **minister** *so and so*

I am **pastor** *so and so* ...

It **plays right into the pride of man**.

There is **nothing** man *craves* **more than a title**.

Meanwhile, his **family looks at him** and says:

Pastor *so and so*; Deacon *so and so* ... (hmmm)

In many of today's churches,

**service** has become a **replacement** for **sanctification**.

And *such service* becomes a **counterfeit** of **sanctification**.

People are **pressed into service** *before* there is any  
**progress** in their **sanctification** ...

And *ministry* becomes their way to **appease God**.

*I may not be patient, joyful, kind, and peaceful, but  
hey, I'm chief sound engineer at my church,  
that must count for something.*

Men are made **teachers**, with **no care** of their *home life*.

Some are **pressed into service** *before they are even a Christian!*

The **fruit** of one's **sanctification** the is no longer  
*gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, kindness, love, joy, peace,*  
and *patience* ... but is now,

**How many meetings** you can attend

**How many young people** you can get to attend your rally

**How many books** you've read

**How many countries** you go to on missions trips.

**How good** a preacher you are

**How skilled** a musician you are

The Scripture speaks of **ONE appropriate Christian service** ...  
and it is not stuffing envelopes, cleaning bathrooms,  
making phone calls, leading music, teaching, going on mission trips,  
or even pastoring.

Romans 12 tells us that we are *to render our bodies a living sacrifice*  
*holy and acceptable to God* ...  
**THAT** is our one *reasonable act of service*.

Christ **saved us**, and He *also washes us!*

THIS is the MANNER in which He serves.

THIS is the EXAMPLE He is **setting for US** in washing our feet.

God did not *just save you* and leave you to your own devices ...  
We would *surely* **destroy ourselves**.

But thankfully, Titus 2:11-12 tells us that the very same **grace**  
which brought *salvation* also

*teaches us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*

How **humbling** a thing it is to **discover** that *all that time* in our **Christian walk** that we were **trying** to *live a Christian life ...*

That *even as* **redeemed people**, we could **not** do it ...  
And that we must **rely upon** the **same grace** that *made us alive* to be **able** to walk.

*Do you know this?*  
That's what Jesus is asking ...

***Know ye what I have done to you?***

*Do you know what He did for you to **secure** your **sanctification**?*

(I mean were all pretty familiar with the **verses of Scripture** that teach us of **God's work** in salvation...)

But once we turn to **sanctification**,  
we seem to forget that *this also* is a **work of God**.

We tend to look at **sanctification** *merely* as it occurs on a **human level**:

But Jesus says,  
***Know ye not what I have done to you?***

We look at our **repentance**, *for example* and say,  
*Oh, I have repented of this sin ...*

But Jesus tells us,  
*Know ye not that I have **granted you repentance**?*

We say, *"I see my life more sanctified"*  
God says, ***"I am the God who sanctifies you."***

We say, *"I am growing into the image of Christ"*  
He says, *"Know ye not that you are being transformed **by My glory**"*

We say, "Look at my good works."

"Know ye not, that **God prepared them beforehand**"

"I work out my salvation with fear and trembling"

"Know ye not, that it is **God who works in you** to both will and work."

We look upon our **growth** in moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love ...

Know ye not that these are only because you are a **partaker** of the **DIVINE NATURE**."

We see fruit in our lives ... joy, peace, patience, etc.

Know ye not that you bear fruit **only** as you remain in the vine.

We see our love for others

Know ye not, that you only love because **He first loved you**.

We see ourselves doing God's will

Know ye not that it is **He who will make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight,**

You say, "I love God"

Know ye not that the **LORD your God will circumcise your heart, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.**

You say, "I find it easier to obey God's commands"

Know ye not, that that God has said, **I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.**

**Know ye not what I have done for you?**

Do you **KNOW** this?

How do you think of your relationship with the Lord?

Do you serve Him or does He serve you?

Before you are too quick to answer,  
**ponder** the idea that you **cannot** *serve God*  
**unless** He has *first served you*.

It is a **sin** to attempt to serve God, if He has not **FIRST** served you.

And its a **great error** of the church to place people into ministry  
to whom Jesus Christ has **not served** and **sanctified**.

And we wonder why people *burn out* ...

In the *parable of the talents* in *Matthew 25*,  
the man who **buried his talent**, *did so*  
because he believed the **master** to be a ***hard man***.

A man, it says, who *sowed where he did not reap* ...  
Who *gathered where he did not plant*.

Sadly, many see God in this way – perhaps without realizing it.

If you have ever looked upon *your service* as a **burden** ...  
you are saying in essence, that **God** is a ***hard man***.  
God is **requiring** this **hard task of me**.

He is **demanding** what He **does not deposit**  
He is **reaping** where He **does not sow**.

<p><u>If we do not realize</u> that God will <b>only require</b> <u>that of us</u> which He <b>graciously supplies</b> ... We will <i>surely</i> <b>get bitter serving</b> in <i>our own strength</i>.</p>
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And don't be fooled ... there's a lot you can do *on you own strength* ...  
but it will **amount to nothing!**

*Anytime* you **seek to serve apart** from the **ability** that God has first given,  
you are *saying* that **God** is a  
***hard man who reaps where He does not sow***.

Anytime you fail to *acknowledge Him* as the **SOURCE** of your service,  
you render your service **unfruitful**.

**God-glorifying service** *first must recognize its source,*  
or else it becomes **arrogant** and **self-serving**.

It is **then** that we get *burnt out* and *bitter*

At times, subtly, our **approach to serving God**  
may *actually* be a **cloak for our pride**,  
as was the case in Peter's  
**unwillingness to have his feet washed** by Jesus Christ.

When we take the ... "*I can do it*"  
"*I can handle it*" "*I don't need any help*" mentality ...  
Our **service** will become **fruitless**.

In washing the disciples' feet, **Jesus** takes the **initiative** in  
**serving them** *first*  
It is then, **His service** unto us that enables us to **respond**  
in *servicing others*.

The **pail** was **there** in the upper room ...  
it probably lied in the corner ...  
and *one by the one* the **disciples** passed it by ...  
any of them could have picked it up –  
but there was **no glory** in that.

They were **too occupied** about being a **greater disciple** ...  
While the *means* of their **true greatness** was there before them.

But **they could not see it** ... mankind fails to see the  
**exaltation of humiliation**.

God's way of greatness is humble yourself,  
and He will exalt you in due season

Man will *always* have his eyes on something **bigger** and **better**.  
He will *always* **crave more glory ... bigger crowds ...**  
**more notoriety**

**Be aware of this my brothers and sisters, lest it happen to us!**

Things can start out right, and *quickly go sour* ...  
when **pride** *rears its ugly head*.

Let our greatness ALWAYS be in bearing the **basin** and **towel**.

When you enter a room, look for the **basin** and **towel** ...  
**Its there** ... there is a **basin** and **towel** in every situation  
you enter.

There is a **basin** and **towel** *in relationships*,  
*in families, in churches, on your jobs* ...

In fact,

**Man not only will not, but CANNOT serve on His own initiative.**

But *because* Jesus Christ has **served us first**, we can serve!

As God says in Ezekiel 36:27, *I will, and you shall*,  
so we must say, "*Thou shalt and we will*"

**Thou shalt work in us both to will and to do, and therefore**  
**we will work out our own salvation"** (Philp 2:12-13).

**Thou shalt enlarge my heart, then**  
**we will run the way of thy commandments** (Psa 119:32).

**Thou shalt draw men, and I will run after you** (S of S 1:4)

When **Christ** pours out his Spirit upon His church,  
we are **quicken** in our **ability** to serve **Him** with **cheerfulness**.

It is **God's power** *with which* we will **naturally** serve.

2 Pet 1:3-4

**His divine power** *has granted to us everything pertaining to*  
*life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who*  
*called us by His own glory and excellence.*

When Philip was drawn to Christ, he **naturally** drew Nathanael –  
he didn't need to *fulfill a quota of door bells* to ring.

*Likewise, as Christ works first on our behalf, THEN ...*

our witness,

our work of service to others,

our giving, or

any of God's commandments for that matter,

will be ***not be burdensome*** (I Jn 5:3),

it will not be compulsory or obligatory,

but rather the **cheerful outflow** of a heart

FIRST served by God.

And our duty becomes a delight.

We won't need a check-list to know how we are to serve.

We won't need a supervisor to tell us how many phone calls

we should make in a week to encourage our brother or sister ...



Go back to John 13 ... verse 13

***Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.***

**Ye should do as I have done**

There it is again

*Thou shalt, and we will ...*

*But what is it that we will do?*

**Serve.**

**How is that we serve?**

I hope you will now appreciate,  
why I spent **so much time** *earlier* **emphasizing** the **context** ...

*Because if Jesus is saying to the disciples, **you should do as I have done** ... we can **misunderstand** WHAT it is we are *supposed to do* ... if we did not take careful notice of what **He did**.*

Many a pastor has **preached** on these verses *in order to* **motivate his church** to **serve more** and **take on ministries** in the church ... but that is NOT the *kind of service* the text is teaching.

**Jesus washed His disciples feet** ... which was a *picture* of His **sanctifying them**.

He does what is necessary and **stops at no lengths** to *ensure* our **sanctification**.

As He has done, so we **ought to do** to each other.

That is we must be **willing** to be **involved** in each other's sanctification.

We need to be investing in each other's holiness.

If we see any stain resting on the feet of our brother,  
we **must not** hide from it ...

we must **be willing** to lovingly confront one another.

**Why is this so hard for us?**

Why do we have such a hard time washing one another?

**Mayonaise illustration.**

Take a napkin and wipe the mayonaise off of your brother's chin!

Why are we so afraid to speak the truth in love to each other?  
Why is it that we are so concerned about fearing man,  
that we can never say to him what he is **doing wrong?**

It's **not like** we're to be Pharisees –

*judging one another ... picking out the speck in our brother's eye,  
while we have a beam in ours.*

There is **no joy** in **magnifying** someone else's sin

Scripture makes it clear that **LOVE** seeks to cover a multitude of sin ...  
**LOVE** does not seek to gossip of the sins of another ...

The book of James 4:11 warns us not to  
*speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a  
brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law, and  
judges the law;*

and in James 5:9

*Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you  
yourselves may not be judged;*

Rather, LOVE seeks to **help a brother overcome**,  
without exposing it to others.

Such a **servicing LOVE** will, *when necessary*,  
not shy away from **admonishing**.

**The TRUE servant** seeks to **remove the stain of sin**  
and does not *wish* **any of the consequences** of sin  
to **befall his brother or sister**.

*For this reason*, the New Testament is **full of commands** to  
**admonish, encourage, reprove, exhort** ...

But if I am going to do this, it **requires** that I **get down**  
to my brother's feet ...  
I must be able to **stoop low** to wash feet.

Gal 6: 1-2 reminds us ...

*Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who  
are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each  
one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one  
another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.*

Take note that even here in Galatians 6, the **context** of servicing your brother  
the bearing of one another's burdens that fulfills the law of Christ  
has to do with **restoring a brother found in sin**.

You see, it is **involved** in their **sanctification**

**The servant** seeks to stoop down to the **feet** of the **offender**  
and **help him** remove their guilt and shame ...

He seeks to help bear their burden ...

He seeks to serve in *THIS* way ...

its **not easy** ... but it is **necessary**.

THIS is the kind of **service** and **burden-bearing** we are called to ...

You can be the most *gifted preacher*, if your **motivation for preaching** is *anything other* than *washing your brothers and sister's feet*, it is **self-seeking**.

You can be a *great administrator*, if your **organization** is *not* with an eye of the **sanctification of the church** ... it will **come to naught**.

In Romans chapter 12,

Paul warned against *thinking more highly of yourself than you ought*.

He said, *prophesy, teach, exhort, lead, give, serve ... whatever ...*

**Do it knowing** that you **can** only **do it** because of the **measure of faith** that **God has FIRST given you!**

In order to serve in this way, you must ... Romans 12 continues ...

*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; giving preference to one another in honor;*

You must, as Peter put it:

*Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another*

And as Paul wrote in Philippians 2:

*Doing nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;*

If this *same attitude is in you, which was in Christ Jesus*, then you are being a servant to your brother after the manner that **Christ was** on that Passover eve.

And the **more responsibility** you bear in the body of Christ, the **more this applies**.

Jesus said, *If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*

He said. *“I’m giving you this example.”*

We **cannot ignore** that this and other texts like Lu 22:26

*but let him who is the **greatest** among you become as the youngest, and the **leader** as the servant.*

These have a peculiar application to the **Christian leaders** ...

The **body of Christ** is looking to **Christian leaders** for their example, and too often they are **lording over the flock**

*Pastors, elders, teachers* ... are **SHERPHERDS** ... **NOT LORDS!**

**There is ONE LORD**

This has *always* been an issue in the church ... John wrote of in 3 John vss. 9-10 ...

*I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, received us not.*

*So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.*

It happened in Israel, it happened in the first church, it happened throughout church history, and it **continues today**.

How many a **dark page** of Church History would **not** have been written if **shepherds** would heed Christ’s words:

*If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.*

That night Christ **demonstrated** *how* **spiritual love operates**  
He showed us the MANNER in which **we** are **called** to serve one another

Such **service** seeks ONLY the **GOOD** of its objects,  
and esteems nothing too lowly to **secure** that end.

All of the things that we think of service being ...  
Stuffing envelopes, cleaning bathrooms, making phone calls,  
leading music, teaching, going on mission trips, and pastoring.

While *they themselves* are **not service** ...  
they can be true manifestations of service,  
if we do what we do to bear another's burden ...  
if the end of such service  
is the **GOOD** of our brother or sister.

What are some other ways that we can be a servant to one another?

1 Pet 4:9-11

*Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in servicing one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

We can have our family in Christ as **guests** in our home –  
showing hospitality – to **minister** to them – to **be a blessing** to them.

Hbr 10:24-25

*let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.*

When you don't see your brother or sister at service,  
you can **pick up a phone, give them a call, pay them a visit** ...  
*stimulated them to not forsake the assembly of the saints.*

This idea of *live and let live* ... is a **product of Satan** ...

It was Cain who said, “*Am I my brother's keeper?*”

We must **see ourselves** as each other's keeper ...

Such **cannot** take place by *merely* spending a few hours together on Sunday morning!

We must break out of our comfort zones and *truly love one another* – not in word, but in deed.

When we read the New Testament, we see a *body* that is **intimately involved** in each other's lives.

It blesses me to see **how many of you** have **taken a genuine interest** in the **welfare of others** in this fellowship.

I have been blessed to see the **body**, *genuinely caring* – with *no check-lists* – *no one looking over you.*

How when *one member hurts*, you have experienced that hurt.

Like Paul in 2 Thess 1:3, I

*give thanks to God for you, brethren, ... because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater;*

Be sure that Jesus Christ sees how you have **visited each other's homes**, how you have **borne one-another's burdens**, how you have been **willing to give to you brothers and sisters** and their families when they were in need.

When Jesus Christ returns He's going to say, "*Well done ...*

*I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'*

*to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'*

Continue to serve *one another* in this way.

- *Bear one another's burdens*
- **Wash one another's feet**
- Be for each other **sharpening tools**,  
*as iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens his brother ...*

**That** is **servicing** *one another, as Christ has served us!*

Why should we do this?

Let's close with Romans 15.

In Romans 15 ... vs.1

*Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.*

Take note as to WHY we are to do this ... look down at verse 6:

*... that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

As we consider this kind of Christianity,

I am not talking about a social program ...

Nothing **human** is an end to itself.

Man serving his fellow man in human community, and human togetherness,  
Human bonding and human society was ordained for **God's glory!**

And where human community does **not** live as community  
for the glory of God alone, it will, *in the end* **be destructive**.

So **be careful** that the **end** of this is the **glory of God** ...  
we are not here to be Mother Therasas  
and become **famous** for our **good works** ...

Jesus concludes this teaching,



*Verily, verily, I say unto you,  
The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent  
greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy  
are ye if ye do them.*

It is one thing to know these things, but Jesus tells us,  
*happy are ye, if you do them.*

It is one thing to **confess** your love for one another,  
it is another thing to **leave your comfort zone**  
and stoop down and serve them.

A mere **speculative knowledge** of such things is of **no value**.

Its not enough to say, *“I really care about your soul,  
but then never lift a finger to help cleanse it”*

An **intellectual assent** to these things,  
with **no action** is **worse than useless**.

If we say, “Amen.” To any of this today, **let us put it into practice!**

If you *know these things* **HAPPY** are ye if you do them!

Notice it does **not** say *happy are ye if you have these things done to you*.

We think that our **happiness** depends upon OTHERS doing unto US.

But in the judgment of Christ here, the **HAPPY heart**  
is the **one** that is ever ready to **perform** for another  
the humblest act of kindness.

We make ourselves **unhappy** by *thinking* that we are **not treated**  
with the **kindness** which we think ourselves entitled to.

Maybe some of those sad faces that Bill was talking about last week  
are **sad** because you are waiting to be served instead of servng!

**LISTEN CAREFULLY**, to the overwhelming witness of Scripture:

*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;*

*Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another*

*Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another*

*the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

*be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

*encourage one another, and build up one another*

*confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another*

*Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.*

*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

*this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;*

*For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another Gl 5:13*

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 Jo 4:7*

*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ... if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. 1 Jo 4:11-13*