

“See Him Serve”
John 13:2-5

Introduction:

1. Let's Head Back In Our Bibles:
 - To John 13 - Where:
 - Jesus Begins To Turn His Attention:
 - Away From His Public Ministry:
 - That John Describes For Us:
 - Through Chapter 12!
 - And - To His Private Ministry:
 - With “His Own” Disciples:
 - To Prepare Them For His Death & Departure:
 - From This World!
2. And - In 13:1:
 - John Tells Us That:
 - The Main Theme Of Jesus' Private Ministry:
 - Was Love!
 - Because:
 - “Having Loved His Own Which Were In The World, He Loved Them Unto The End!”
 - Even - “Unto The Uttermost!”
 - Which For Jesus:
 - The End Is Endless! And:
 - The Uttermost Is Infinite!
3. This Is How Much:
 - Jesus Loved & Loves:
 - “His Own!”
 - Those Who Belong To Him:
 - Because They Believe In Him!
 - But - Just Like In Our Own Relationships:
 - Its One Thing:
 - To *Say* That:
 - You Love Someone!
 - But - Its Another Thing:
 - To *Show* That:
 - You Love Them!
4. Well - Beginning In The Next Verse:
 - And - Through Most Of This Chapter:
 - Jesus Does Not Just:
 - *Say* He Loves “His Own!”
 - Jesus Will *Show* His Love:
 - For “His Own” Through:
 - His Service!
 - And This Morning:
 - As We Look At 13:2-5 - I Just Want Us:
 - To See Him Serve:
 - To Show His Love:
 - For His Disciples!
 - And - Even For You!
 - 13:2-5 - “And supper being ended, the devil having now 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; / He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. / After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe [them] with the towel wherewith he was girded!”
5. As John Wrote The Words:
 - That We Just Read:
 - We Need To Remember That:
 - He Was There!

- He Was An Eyewitness:
 - And Saw Jesus Serve:
 - In This Way!
 - And That Is Why:
 - He Gives Such Attention:
 - To All The Details:
 - Of His Service:
 - When Jesus Washed The Feet Of His Disciples:
 - Including His Own:
 - At This Last Supper!
6. And So:
 - As William Hendrickson Once Wrote:
 - “The Heart Must Linger Here A While, Until The Lesson Has Been Learned!”
 - We Need To “Linger Here A While!”
 - In These Verses:
 - To See Jesus Serve!
 - And - May It Make The Same Impression:
 - On Your Heart Today:
 - As It Did On John’s!
 - And It Will!
 - When You Remember That:
- * Jesus Served:
 - Even In The Face Of:
 - The Greatest Trial:
 - Of His Life!
 - This Trial Is Presented To Us:
 - In 13:2 - Which Is Closely Connected To:
 - 13:4 - So That:
 - “Supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s [son], to betray him . . . He – Jesus – Riseth From Supper!” (KJV)
 - Now - Its Probably Better To See:
 - And Translate The First Part Of This Verse As:
 - “During Supper” - Instead Of At:
 - The End Of Supper:
 - Because Of What We Find Later In This Chapter - As Well As In:
 - The Other Gospel Accounts Of The Last Supper!
 - But - Even Though The Order Of Events:
 - At The Last Supper Is Important:
 - The Most Important Thing:
 - We Need To Focus On In This Verse Is:
 - The Great Trial That Was Before Jesus!
 - Because - Even Though:
 - Judas Had Not Yet Betrayed Jesus:
 - In Body - He Already Betrayed Him:
 - In His Heart!
 - Because - In His Heart:
 - He “Gave Place To The Devil!”
 - So That The Devil Found In Judas A Kindred Spirit:
 - And A Willing Heart To Do Whatever He Would Put There!
 - Judas & The Devil Were Allies!
 - And Yet - Even In The Face Of:
 - His Greatest Trial:
 - Which Included Being Betrayed:
 - By Someone Who Seemed To Be One Of His “Own Familiar Friend!” (Psalm 41:9)
 - Jesus Showed His Love:
 - By Serving!
 - And - Not Only That!
 - But Jesus Would Even Serve:

- The Very One Who Would Betray Him!

* But Also - Jesus Served:

- Even In The Face Of:
 - The Greatest Truths:
 - Of His Life!
- These Truths Are Given To Us:
 - In 13:3 - Which Is Also Closely Connected To:
 - 13:4 - So That:
 - “Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God . . . He Riseth From Supper!”
 - So - Even As Jesus Served His Disciples:
 - Jesus “Knew” Some Things:
 - About His Relationship With:
 - God The Father!
- Jesus Knew About:
 - God’s Supreme Confidence:
 - In Him!
 - A Confidence So Great That:
 - “The Father Had Given All Things Into His Hands!”
 - In Other Words - Jesus Knew That Truly Everything Was At His Disposal - To Do With As He Pleasd!
 - **IE:** What Would You Do If You Had Everything At Your Disposal? Some Have Had Much At Their Disposal - Only To Be Served!
 - But - Even When Jesus Knew:
 - And Was - “Fully Conscious Of The Universal Sovereignty” Given To Him:
 - What Did He Do?
 - He Humbled Himself:
 - To Serve!
- Also - Jesus Knew About:
 - His Supreme Connection:
 - With God!
 - A Connection So Great That:
 - “He Was Come From God, And Went To God!”
 - Because - He Was Given:
 - A Mission By God:
 - In This World!
 - And - When Jesus Came From God:
 - He Came In Order To:
 - Accomplish That Mission!
 - So That - When Jesus Would Go To God:
 - He Would Return With The:
 - Approval Of God!
 - There Is No One Else:
 - In All This World:
 - Who Could Know These Things:
 - That Jesus Knew - And That:
 - Were True!
 - And Still - What Did He Do?
 - He Humbled Himself:
 - And Served His Disciples:
 - In An Intentional Way!
 - Which Is What We Find Next:
 - In 13:4-5!

* So - Even In The Face Of:

- The Greatest Trial & The Greatest Truths:
 - Of His Life - Jesus Served According To An:

1. Intentional Plan!

- So That We Are Told In:
 - 13:4a - "He Riseth From Supper!"
 - And - From This Point On:
 - Its As If Everything Slows Down:
 - So That We Might See What John Saw On That Night - And:
 - At That Supper - When:
 - He Saw Him Serve!
- The Supper - Which Was The Jewish Passover Meal - Had Already Been Prepared For Jesus And His Disciples, As We Read About In The Other Gospels!
 - Ordinarily, The Men Would Recline Around A Low Table, With Their Feet Away From The Table. They Would Lean On Their Left Fore-Arm, So That They Might Eat With Their Right.
 - No Doubt, Jesus Would Have Been The Guest Of Honor At This Meal! Which Means, He Would Have Been Right In The Middle / At The Center!
 - And - Even Though There Was Conversation Taking Place All Around The Table - Even As The Disciples Were Arguing About "Which Of Them Should Be Accounted The Greatest!" (Luke 12:24)
 - As Soon As Jesus Started To Get Up From The Supper Table:
 - All Conversation Would Have Stopped - And - All Eyes Would Have Been On Jesus!
- So - Jesus "Riseth From Supper!"
 - By - First - Placing Both Of His Hands:
 - On The Floor - Just In Front Of The Table!
 - He Then Would Have Brought His Knees Up - And Beneath Him:
 - To Support His Weight!
 - Then - He Would Have Pushed Himself:
 - Up Onto His Feet:
 - Until He Stood Upright:
 - To Be Seen Above Everyone Else, Who Were Still Seated At The Table!
 - All Without A Word!
- And - He Did All This:
 - "During Supper!"
 - It Wasn't Yet Time:
 - To Get Up!
 - It Wasn't Yet Time:
 - To Leave!
 - But - Jesus Had A Plan!
 - An Intentional Plan!
 - And - Every Movement He Made:
 - Was Pre-Meditated!
 - So That He Might Show His Love To His Disciples "Unto The End!"
 - By Serving Them!

* But Then - We Can Also See From 13:4 - That Jesus Served With:

2. *Intentional Preparation!*

- Which Is Why We Are Told That Jesus Then:
 - 13:4b - "Laid Aside His Garments!"
 - Since It Was Spring-Time In Israel:
 - The "Garments" That Jesus Was Most Likely Wearing At The Time:
 - Would Have Been His Outer Robe & His Inner Tunic!
 - So That - After He Slowly & Methodically Removed And "Laid Aside His Garments!"
 - All That Was Left Was:
 - A Loin-Cloth - Which, Many Times, Was The Only Thing Worn By A Household Slave!
- And - This Would Have Been:
 - A Ghastly Sight For The Disciples!
 - To See Jesus Stripped Down:
 - Not Just To Do:
 - The Work Of A Servant!
 - But To Look Like:

- A Servant! By Adopting:
 - “The Stance Of A Menial Slave!”
- How Much More:
 - Does This Help Us Understand:
 - What Paul Tells Us About Jesus:
 - In Philippians 2:6-7 - “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: / But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant!”
 - But - He Did This:
 - And Made This:
 - Intentional Preparation:
 - So That Then - He Might Further Act According To His Own:

3. ***Intentional Purpose!***

- Which Is What Happens Next:
 - In 3:4c - When Jesus:
 - “Took A Towel, And Girded Himself!”
 - Now - One Of The Things We Might Take For Granted In This Passage Is:
 - This Towel - Or - The Long, Linen Cloth - That Was Already There For The Use Of Jesus & His Disciples!
 - This Towel - Along With:
 - The Water & The Basin:
 - Mentioned In The Next Verse:
 - Were Already There!
 - But - Apparently:
 - Had Not Yet Been Used!
 - As Jews Entered Each Other’s Homes:
 - It Was Customary For The Hosts:
 - To Provide For Their Guests:
 - These Things - So That They Might Clean The Dust & Dirt & Sweat Off Their Feet:
 - Not Only To Keep The House Clean - But To Refresh Them As Well!
 - If The Host Was Wealthy Enough:
 - To Have A Servant / Slave:
 - It Would Be Their Task:
 - To Wash Their Guest’s Feet For Them!
 - But - There Is Some Evidence That:
 - This Chore Was Never Expected To Be Done By:
 - A Jewish Servant!
 - Only A Gentile!
 - Now - We Don’t Know Why:
 - The Disciples Hadn’t Yet Washed Their Feet!
 - Perhaps There Was Such Familiarity & Friendship:
 - With The Host:
 - That They Weren’t Expected To!
 - Or - Perhaps In Their Arguing:
 - About “Which Of Them Should Be Accounted The Greatest!”
 - They Just Forgot!
 - But - There Was Jesus Now!
 - Taking The Towel:
 - Tying It Around His Waste:
 - And Readying The Two Ends:
 - To Do The Work Of Service:
 - That Noone Else Thought To Do!
 - And He Did All Of This:
 - Intentionally - For The Purpose Of:
 - Not Just Saying:
 - He Loved Them:
 - But Showing It!
 - But Then - John Continues To Describe:

- In Detail - The:

4. Intentional Performance:

- Of Jesus' Service:
 - In 3:5 - Where:
 - "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!"
 - Once Again - We Find:
 - What Should Have Been Used:
 - For Jesus - Was Used:
 - By Jesus!
 - Even The Water & The Basin - And The Unmentioned Pitcher That Held The Water!
 - So - Armed With:
 - A Pitcher In One Hand - And:
 - The Basin In Another - And:
 - With The Towel Around His Waste:
 - He Stooped Down At The Feet Of His Disciples:
 - One By One!
 - As He Lifted Up One Foot:
 - He Would Place The Basin Under It:
 - So That It Would Catch The Water:
 - He Poured Over It!
 - After Putting The Pitcher Down:
 - He Would Wash That Foot:
 - With His Own Hands!
 - Rubbing & Scrubbing The Dust & Dirt & Sweat Off Into The Water!
 - When He Was Satisfied:
 - He Took One Of The Ends Of The Towel:
 - And Wiped Dry His Disciples Foot:
 - Only To Start Again On The Other One:
 - Using The Same Procedure!
 - And Then - He Would:
 - Move To The Feet:
 - Of The Next Disciple!
- Now - As Jesus Performed:
 - This Act Of Loving Service:
 - He Also Demonstrated:
 - How He Performed:
 - All Of His Service!
- Jesus Served:
 - Both Here & Always:
 - In A Candid Way!
 - That Is - In A Sincere & Forthright Way!
- Jesus Did Not Just:
 - Go Through The Motions:
 - Until One Of His Disciples:
 - Got The Hint:
 - To Take Over!
- Jesus Did Not Only:
 - "Begin" To Wash His Disciples Feet:
 - Only To "Guilt-Trip" Them:
 - Into Serving Him!
- Instead - Jesus Went:
 - All-In - And - All The Way
 - In His Loving Service:
 - For "His Own!"
- Also - Jesus Served:
 - Both Here & Always:

- In A Complete & Thorough Way!
- Though We Are Told Here:
 - That Jesus “*Began* To Wash The Disciples Feet!”
 - He Did So With The Intention:
 - Of Finishing The Job!
- And - In 13:12 - We Are Even Told:
 - That He *Does* Finish The Job!
 - “So After He Had Washed Their Feet!”
- So - What Jesus Did:
 - Was Not Merely Symbolic!
 - He Washed The Feet Of:
 - All His Disciples:
 - With His Own Two Hands!
- The Very Hands:
 - Into Which God The Father:
 - Had Placed & Entrusted:
 - “All Things!” (13:3)
 - These Are The Same Hands:
 - Jesus Used To Take Care Of:
 - The Feet Of His Disciples!
 - Even The Feet Of:
 - Judas - The One Who:
 - Had Already Betrayed Him:
 - In His Heart!
- This Is:
 - “Love So Amazing, So Divine!”
 - On Full Display!
- But Also - Jesus Served:
 - Both Here & Always:
 - In A Cleansing Way!
 - Because - After He Washed Those Feet:
 - He Then - “Wiped Them With The Towel!”
 - So - They Were Fresh & Clean & Dry!
 - You Have To Wonder If:
 - Their Feet Had Ever Been:
 - Any Cleaner!
 - Because - Jesus Cared!
 - They Many Not Have Cared!
 - Other Servants May Not Have Cared!
 - But Jesus Did!
 - And - The Dirt That Stained Their Feet:
 - Now Stained The Towel:
 - That He Had Tied Around His Waist!
 - So That They Might Be Clean & Refreshed!
- But - Isn’t This How Jesus:
 - Intentionally Performed All His Work?
 - And - Isn’t This How Jesus:
 - Intentionally Performs All His Work?
 - In A Candid Way!
 - In A Complete Way!
 - In A Cleansing Way!

Conclusion:

1. And So - Even In The Face Of:
 - The Greatest Trial & The Greatest Truths:
 - Of His Life:
 - Jesus Showed His Love:
 - By Serving His Disciples:
 - With This Kind Of Intentional:

- Plan & Preparation & Purpose & Performance!
- 2. And - All This Was Recorded For Us:
 - So That You:
 - Like John & The Rest Of The Disciples:
 - Could "See Him Serve!"
 - Because - This Is How Much:
 - He Loved & Loves You!
 - And - This Is How:
 - He Served & Serves You!
- 3. In Fact:
 - What Jesus Did Here:
 - Is But A Picture:
 - Of The Loving Service That:
 - He Was About To Accomplish:
 - On The Cross!
- 4. Now, Even Though It Might Seem Like:
 - Jesus Is Passive:
 - In His Passion:
 - And Not In Control!
 - Yet - The Cross Too:
 - Was An Intentional Work:
 - Of Loving Service!
 - And So - How Jesus Served:
 - Is Also How Jesus Saves!
 - All According To:
 - God's Intentional Plan & Preparation & Purpose & Performance!
- 5. And - He Did All Of This:
 - So That You Might Respond To:
 - His Great Love For You!
 - To Repent!
 - From Your Sin & Selfishness!
 - Like The Disciples!
 - To Receive!
 - The Cleansing Work Of Jesus:
 - By Turning To & Trusting In Him Alone:
 - As Your Savior & Lord!
 - Not Just The Cleansing:
 - Of Your Feet - But:
 - Of Your Soul!
 - And - To Respond!
 - By Showing Your Love To Him:
 - Even As He Showed His Love:
 - To You!
- 6. Jesus Does Not Just:
 - Say He Loves You:
 - He *Shows* It!
 - And Now:
 - Don't Just *Say* You Love Him!
 - *Show* It!
 - Even Every Day, By Serving Him!

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