

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS' HUMBLE SERVICE-PT 2-THE SERVING
JOHN 13:1-17

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS' HUMBLE SERVICE-PT 2-THE SERVING
JOHN 13:1-17

Introduction

READ JOHN 13:1-17

We began last week to look at the first 3 verses of **JOHN 13** as we looked at **THE SETTING** for what we just read: **JESUS' HUMBLE SERVICE** to **HIS DISCIPLES** in washing their feet. We pointed out a few important things:

JESUS KNEW THAT HIS HOUR HAD COME...

JESUS LOVED HIS DISCIPLES TO THE END...

That Love Is What Took Him To The Cross!
That Love Is What Caused Him To Do What We See Here!
This Was A Teaching Moment With His Disciples!

JOHN INDICATES HERE THAT THE PASSOVER SUPPER HAD ENDED...

That Is Important Because Of What We Saw In LUKE'S Account Of THE LAST SUPPER!

Specifically, the **DISCIPLES STRIFE** about which of them should be accounted the **GREATEST** in the **CHRIST'S KINGDOM!**

JESUS' words to **HIS DISCIPLES** about their **STRIFE** are recorded in **Luke 22:25–27**—“*25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. 26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is GREATEST among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth SERVE. 27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that SERVETH? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that SERVETH.*

So, let's look a bit farther into this passage **and see what it really means to SERVE**. **JESUS** knew that **HIS** hour had come, but **HIS DISCIPLES** were involved in a **POWER STRUGGLE**, so **JESUS** taught them some things here by example.

I. WE SEE THE HUMBLE ACT OF SERVICE BY JESUS!

(Vs. 4-11)

A. Notice The Demonstration of ROYAL SERVICE. (Vs 4-5)

- 1. The SERVICE was ROYAL because it was being performed by JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD HIMSELF! (There is NONE GREATER than HE!)**
- 2. CHRIST and CHRIST alone was and is the KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS!**
- 3. JESUS knew WHO HE was, yet HE HUMBLED HIMSELF! (Vs 3)**
 - a. JESUS knew that HIS HEAVENLY FATHER had given ALL things into HIS hands!**
 - b. ALL POWER, AUTHORITY, GLORY, and HONOR was HIS!**
 - c. JESUS knew that HE was come from GOD HIS HEAVENLY FATHER and HE knew that HE was going to be returning to GOD HIS HEAVENLY FATHER to take HIS place at the right hand of GOD very soon!**
- 4. Yet HE, WHO was and is the KING OF KINGS and LORD of LORDS, laid aside HIS clothing and began to wash the feet of mere men!**
 - a. The MASTER became the SLAVE!**
 - b. The HIGHEST took the place of the LOWEST!**
 - c. JESUS even washed the feet of the one who would soon leave HIM to BETRAY HIM! (JUDAS ISCARIOT!)**

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS' HUMBLE SERVICE-PT 2-THE SERVING
JOHN 13:1-17

- d. **JESUS even washed the feet of the one who would DENY HIM with an oath on this very night ! (SIMON PETER!)**
- e. **JESUS washed the feet of each of these DISCIPLES of HIS who would forsake HIM and flee later when HE was arrested!**

5. **Jesus Was Doing Precisely What He Taught Previously As Recorded In *Matthew 20:24-28*.**
This was taught before **JESUS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY** into **JERUSALEM**. **JESUS** had to repeat this at the **LAST SUPPER** because the **DISCIPLES** weren't getting it!

minister = servant (deacon or one who serves or waits)

servant = bond-slave (slave who does whatever service the master requires; he is at the beck-and-call of the master.)

Who was the greatest sitting at the **LORD'S TABLE**? **JESUS!** Yet **JESUS** humbled **HIMSELF** to **SERVE** those who were with **HIM!**

Think of **JESUS'** true **HUMBLE** service to this world in that **HE:** *Philippians 2:7-8*—“7 *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*”

Notice The Demonstration Of ROYAL SERVICE...

- B. **Notice The Misunderstanding Of That Service. (Vs 6-11)**
 - 1. **When JESUS approached PETER to wash his feet, PETER protested! (Vs 6)**

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS' HUMBLE SERVICE-PT 2-THE SERVING
JOHN 13:1-17

- a. **JESUS** told **PETER** that he didn't understand what was happening then, but that he would understand it all later. (*Vs 7*)
- b. **Note PETER'S foolish response! (Vs 8a)**
"Thou shalt never wash my feet..."

PETER'S words here are emphatic in the **GREEK** language they are translated from! Oh how we need to beware of using **absolute words** regarding **what we will or will not do** or **will or will not allow!**

2. **JESUS rebuked PETER for his response! (Vs 8b)**

After **JESUS** rebuked **PETER**, he changed his tune asking **JESUS** to wash other parts as well, (*Vs 9*)“*Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.*”

“*Open mouth, insert foot*” **PETER** once again reveals that he doesn't have a clue as to what is going on here.

JESUS used a common picture to illustrate a **spiritual truth**.

As they traveled on the dusty roads their feet became dirty, and they needed to be cleansed. It was a **common courtesy** extended to guests! They didn't need a complete bath, but just their feet needed washing.

3. **Most folks misunderstand the mission and service of CHRIST.**

HE came to provide **washing and cleansing from sin to sinners** — every one of us—thereby **saving us from death, from condemnation, and from hell.**

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS' HUMBLE SERVICE-PT 2-THE SERVING
JOHN 13:1-17

HE came to **cleans**e mankind **ONCE AND FOR ALL** by **HIS** blood that **through HIM** we might be acceptable before **GOD** and fit for **HEAVEN!**

HE came to **cleans**e mankind that we might be fit to serve **GOD**, both now and forever.

4. JESUS' washing HIS DISCIPLES feet did have a spiritual meaning— HE was teaching them about their need for DAILY FORGIVENESS!

Once a man is **washed**, he is already **cleans**ed. (*Vs 10*)
When **JESUS** said here, "*and ye are clean, but not all*", **HE** was indicating that the **DISCIPLES** had **received that initial washing**, but not all of them had. (*Vs 11*) *i.e. JUDAS ISCARIOT being the exception.*

PETER had already been **cleans**ed; therefore, he did not need another bath! (*i.e. He didn't need another experience of being saved and cleansed.*)

But **note what he did need...he needed to have his feet to be cleans**ed. The picture given by **JESUS** is this:

As **PETER** and the other **DISCIPLES** walked through this world, they would pick up some of the dust and dirt of the world. They needed to ask Jesus to cleanse them from that pollution which they had picked up.

1 John 1:9—"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Salvation is eternal...but Saints feet tend to get dirty!

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS' HUMBLE SERVICE-PT 2-THE SERVING
JOHN 13:1-17

III. WE SEE JESUS' APPLICATION OF WHAT HE DEMONSTRATED HERE! (Vs 12-17)

A. As BELIEVERS And FOLLOWERS Of JESUS, JESUS Is Our MASTER And LORD! (Vs 13)

Master = Teacher (He had just taught them by example!)

Lord = One who is above us in rank and respect and has a right to issue commands.

Luke 6:46- "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

B. So, If JESUS, Our MASTER And LORD HUMBLED HIMSELF To SERVE Us, How Much More Should We Be Willing To HUMBLE Ourselves To SERVE HIM By HUMBLY SERVING EACH OTHER? (Vs 14-15)

1. A **FOLLOWER** of **CHRIST JESUS** is more than just someone who **BELIEVES** on **CHRIST!**

2. A **FOLLOWER** of **CHRIST JESUS** is to be a **SERVANT** of **CHRIST**.
As such he does not act on his own or do his own thing.

He is a **SLAVE** with absolutely no rights of his own.

He is at the beck and call of his **LORD** to do **HIS LORD'S** will—**Whatever, Whenever, Wherever!**

As a **SERVANT**, he exists solely to serve his **LORD, CHRIST JESUS** and **HIM** alone!

3. Our **LORD JESUS CHRIST, Wants Us To Follow His Example By Serving One Another Just As He Served!**

So, *WE SEE THE HUMBLE ACT OF SERVICE BY JESUS!*

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS' HUMBLE SERVICE-PT 2-THE SERVING
JOHN 13:1-17

C. So, What Is The Bottom Line Of This Lesson? (Vs 16-17)

Well, let's talk about what it isn't first:

1. JESUS WAS NOT ESTABLISHING FOOT WASHING AS A CEREMONY OR RELIGIOUS RITE: How can we know that?

- a. Because The Gist Of The Whole Story Is A **Spiritual Application Of Personal Service!**
- b. Because **JESUS** Has Never Physically Washed Any Of Our Physical Feet! (*Vs 14*) **HE washes our spiritual feet as we confess our sins to HIM!**
- c. Because **It Was Done For A Teaching Purpose Rather Than For A Custom!** (To Teach Us About **HUMBLE SERVICE!**)
- d. Because **The DISCIPLES Never Practiced It Or Taught It As A Ceremony!**

2. JESUS WAS TEACHING HIS DISCIPLES (AND US) TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN HUMILITY BY LOVE!

Rather than striving with one another about position and rank, as they had been doing, they were to **SERVE** one another in **HUMILITY** and **LOVE!**

Has someone fallen into sin and needs a hand to get up again? What will be your response? To kick them while they are down? Or to help them find get up again?

Galatians 6:1-4— "*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ*"

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS' HUMBLE SERVICE-PT 2-THE SERVING
JOHN 13:1-17

Are you walking in Christ's love or just talking about it?

Ephesians 5:1— "*1 Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children, 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*"

John 13:34-35 (Cf. 1 Corinthians 13)

Is someone in need of your forgiveness? Well, forgive them already!

Ephesians 4:32— "*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*"

Hebrews 12:14-15— "*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*"

The SERVANT of JESUS SERVES JESUS in HAPPY OBEDIENCE by SERVING OTHERS!

1. Once again, it isn't enough to know what to do...we must do it!
2. It is one thing to be willing to **SERVE JESUS**, but to do so we must **HUMBLE OURSELVES** and **SERVE ONE ANOTHER!**

Conclusion

CHRIST has **HUMBLY SERVED** each of us by what **HE** did at **CALVARY! DO YOU KNOW HIM?**

CHRIST CLEANSING is available to us as we dirty our feet walking in this sinful world! **DO YOU GO TO HIM REGULARLY FOR CLEANSING?**

CHRIST would have us follow **HIS** example of **LOVING HUMBLE SERVICE...ARE YOU SERVING HIM?**