

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS' HUMBLE SERVICE-PT 1-THE SETTING
JOHN 13:1-4; LUKE 22:15-23

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Introduction

The first seventeen verses of **JOHN 13** give us the account of **JESUS HUMBLY SERVING HIS DISCIPLES BY WASHING THEIR FEET!** But I just want us to look at the first four verses here today which deal with the **SETTING FOR WHAT JESUS DID.** (*Read John 13:1-4*)

JESUS' DISCIPLES still did not have a clear understanding about what was about to happen to **JESUS** in a very short period of time from this time!

Now, we can see from Scripture that **JESUS** had repeatedly told them of **HIS** coming **BETRAYAL, ARREST, TRIAL, MISTREATMENT, CRUCIFIXION, BURIAL, AND HIS RESURRECTION,** but the **DISCIPLES** weren't hearing it because **they didn't want to hear it!**

I. JESUS KNEW THAT HIS HOUR HAD COME! (Vs 1a, 3)

In fact, we saw **JESUS** state this in the previous chapter, but **HIS DISCIPLES** were clearly clueless about what **HE** was talking when about **HE** said *"The hour is come that the Son of man should be glorified"*! (*John 12:23-24*)

- A. We Have Already Seen How JESUS Was In Control Of Even The Timing Of HIS Own Death!**
- B. So, JESUS Knew That HE Was About To Die And So HE Would Have Known Just How Short HIS Time Was!**
- C. Though SATAN Had Already Put Into The Heart Of JUDAS ISCARIOT To Betray JESUS, he was there at the table with them as JESUS instituted the LORD'S TABLE (or SUPPER) and AS JESUS WASHED THEIR FEET!**

JUDAS ISCARIOT would soon leave the **TABLE** and do his dastardly deed and come back with those who would arrest the **LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

So, JESUS KNEW THAT HIS HOUR HAD COME...

II. JESUS LOVED HIS DISCIPLES TO THE END! (Vs 1b)

HE "loved *HIS own which were in the world, HE loved them unto the end.*"

- A. JESUS Was All About Having HIS DISCIPLES Best Interest In Mind— Because That's What Godly Love Is All About...It is about SEEKING THE HIGHEST GOOD FOR OTHERS, NOT SELF!**

(e.g. JESUS had called them...JESUS had taught them... JESUS had provided for them...JESUS had promised to send the Holy Ghost to them...JESUS was about to die for them— The supreme demonstration of the LOVE HE had for them!)

- B. JESUS' DISCIPLES Exhibited Something That Required Some Additional Teaching Before He Left Them!**

Some of the DISCIPLES actions left a lot to be desired, as we will see in just a few minutes. So what **JESUS** taught them here was not only an **EXAMPLE** of what they needed to know, but it could be viewed as a form of **LOVING REBUKE** or **CORRECTION.**

Proverbs 3:11–12— *"11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; Neither be weary of his correction: 12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; Even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

- C. So, Whatever Else HE Was Going To Teach HIS DISCIPLES Had To Be Taught To Them Right Then!**

After **HIS RESURRECTION, HE** would still teach them for the 40 days that **HE** showed **HIMSELF** alive to them, but then **HE** would **ASCEND** back to **HIS HEAVENLY FATHER!**

But this that **HE** needed to teach them really needed to be taught **BEFORE HE** went to the **CROSS!**

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So, *JESUS KNEW THAT HIS HOUR HAD COME...*
JESUS LOVED HIS DISCIPLES TO THE END...

III. JOHN INDICATES HERE THAT THE PASSOVER SUPPER HAD ENDED! (Vs 2a) Why is that important?

LUKE'S GOSPEL reveals that **JESUS** spoke to **HIS DISCIPLES** about **HIS PASSION** both **before and during** the **PASSOVER SUPPER** which would have been just before this that we read here in **JOHN'S GOSPEL**.

(Read: Luke 22:15-23)

The **DISCIPLES** apparently **heard ONLY what they wanted to hear!** (*Luke 22:16, 18, 28-30*) [They heard **JESUS** mention **THE KINGDOM!** Now, that's what they were interested in right there!]

But the **DISCIPLES** conveniently **blocked out the parts that they didn't want to hear!** (*Luke 22:15, 19-20*) [**SUFFER...BROKEN BODY...BLOOD SHED...BETRAYAL**) Not interested!

That is much the same way that many BELIEVERS do today with the WORD OF GOD! They hear what they want to hear and the rest goes in one ear and out the other!

BELIEVERS want to hear about the **RAPTURE** of the **CHURCH** involving **CHRIST'S** soon **COMING** for **HIS OWN!** They want to hear about the **MANSION** prepared for them...and how there will be **NO MORE TEARS...NO MORE DEATH...NO MORE SORROW... NO MORE CRYING...NO MORE PAIN...NO MORE OF THE HEARTACHES OF THIS LIFE!**

They want to hear about how there will be **PEACE FOREVER MORE!** They want to hear about how we will have a **BLESSED REUNION** with our **LOVED ONES** who have gone on before!

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But they don't want to hear about **TAKING UP THEIR CROSS AND FOLLOWING JESUS** much less hear the preacher hammer about the need for **FAITHFULNESS TO GOD AND HIS HOUSE** in these end days!

And they don't want to hear about **THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST** consuming all the **WOOD, HAY, AND STUBBLE** in their lives and them being **SAVED YET SO AS BY FIRE!** (Because if they're honest they know that there certainly's **NOT MUCH GOLD, SILVER, AND PRECIOUS STONES** being generated in their lives!

And they don't want to hear about their need for **PERSONAL REVIVAL** and the need to **PREPARE** for **CHRIST'S SOON COMING**, after all they have too much on their plate right now as it is!

And they've heard enough about how they need to be **TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST!** They think that's just for the preacher!

And one more thing...they don't want to hear that **SUFFERING** and **PERSECUTION** may very well come our way as **BELIEVERS BEFORE CHRIST'S COMING!** That's not very positive!

These **DISCIPLES** had in their minds that **JESUS** was about to set up **HIS** earthly **KINGDOM!** It was around this very same time that some of the **GOSPEL** accounts record some **STRIFE** among **JESUS' DISCIPLES** about who was going to be the **GREATEST** in the **KINGDOM.** (*Luke 22:24-27*)

They were caught up in their own PROUD AMBITION for POSITION, POWER and AUTHORITY in the KINGDOM, rather than the WILL OF CHRIST for them for that day!

Even after **JESUS** arose and continued to teach them, they still wanted to know when **JESUS** was going to set up **HIS KINGDOM!**

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Just before **CHRIST ASCENDED** back to **HIS HEAVENLY FATHER**, they point blank asked **HIM** about the timing of the **KINGDOM!**

Acts 1:6-8- "6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Can you imagine how the heart of **JESUS** must have been cut by all of their **strife in jockeying for position** in the **KINGDOM?**

HE had so little time left to teach them that **the way to GLORY** in **HIS** coming **KINGDOM** is through **HUMBLE SERVICE** and not through fighting for **POSITION** and **AUTHORITY**.

Therefore, **HE** was compelled to zero in on them and to do whatever was necessary to help them, no matter the cost! **HE** was compelled by **LOVE** to wash their feet, no matter the humiliation and the degree of abasement required, to show them by example this important principle!

This was the **SETTING** that preceded **JESUS' WASHING HIS DISCIPLES'** feet to **DEMONSTRATE** to them **THE PATH TO TRUE GREATNESS: TRUE GREATNESS IS FOUND IN HUMBLE SERVICE TO OTHERS!**

Conclusion

JESUS is coming back soon! As the **WORD OF GOD** is shared from this pulpit each service, what are you doing with it? In one ear and out the other?

If you don't know the **LORD**, time is a wasting and you could be left out of being ready for your **DEATH** or for the **LORD'S COMING!** You could miss out on **ETERNAL LIFE** in **GOD'S PERFECT HEAVEN!** **How sad!**

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You think things are bad in this old world now? You ain't seen nothing yet! The coming **TRIBULATION PERIOD** for those who are left behind at **CHRIST'S COMING FOR HIS SAINTS** is going to make what is happening now look like a Sunday picnic in comparison!

Today is the day of **SALVATION! REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL TODAY!** Because you have no promise that you'll have another opportunity!

BELIEVERS are you busy in **HUMBLE SERVICE TO OTHERS?**
Or are you busy just looking out for yourself?

Are you open to WHATEVER the LORD wants you to do and WHEREVER HE wants you to do it in order to please HIM?

Or are there some things and/or places that are just beneath you?

JESUS gave HIS ALL and HIS BEST for US out of HIS LOVE for US!

WHAT ARE WE GIVING HIM IN RETURN?