

THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS LOVE

With Jesus in the Upper Room, John 13:1-17

March 7, 2021

*“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,
you should also wash one another’s feet.”*

John 13:14

The time had come: A new phase of John’s gospel

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.”

⁴ “Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.”

John 2:1-4

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.

John 13:1-2

- 1) “The hour” bookends Jesus public ministry and points to the next step in Messiah’s program
- 2) Love begins as a simple act of service and ends as the ultimate act of self-sacrifice
- 3) John assumes we know the story of Last Supper and betrayal → Jesus is the true Bread and Wine

When the master becomes the servant

³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

John 13:3-5

- 1) As shocking as this event is, it begins with a reminder of POWER
- 2) Notice that “knew” so that “he got up” → foot washing (and cross!) are part of God’s plan
- 3) Washing feet is menial, unspiritual, dirty – what I expect someone else to do, can’t do for myself

Peter's response (confusion, amazement, gratitude)

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

John 13:6-11 (see Spurgeon's "Jesus Washing His Disciples' Feet" sermon)

- 1) To belong at this meal, I have to be clean. To live in submission to Jesus, I have to be washed
- 2) Doug's rule: Wash everyone's feet because I do not know who is "clean"

Jesus' application: Doing more important than knowing

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

John 13:12-17 (see Jesus' reinforcement in John 13:31-35)

- 1) This lesson is ESPECIALLY for disciples! [Luke 22:24-30]
- 2) We focus on the what, but the grace is in the who: Thomas, Peter, Judas and me!
- 3) Washing feet is menial, unspiritual, dirty – the perfect sacrament → a sign of ultimate sacrifice
- 4) Choose blessing! [Psalm 1; Matthew 5; Deuteronomy 28; Revelation 1:3]

Resources for further studies of Jesus' Upper Room Discourse

The Bible Project team has great stuff on John at <https://open.life.church/items/179216-john-poster-jpg>

Spurgeon has a classic sermon at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/jesus-washing-his-disciples-feet/#flipbook/>

J. C. Ryle's commentary at <https://www.monergism.com/lord-are-you-going-wash-my-feet-john-136-15>

Deffinbaugh's sermon at <https://bible.org/seriespage/30-menial-service-john-131-17>

I have really appreciated D. A. Carson's commentary in the Pillar New Testament Commentary series (Eerdmans, 1991).

created by the Bible Project