

# THE FOOT-WASHING LORD AND SAVIOUR - A LESSON IN SERVICE AND HUMILITY

## John 13:1-17

### Introduction.

- A. Every part of the Gospel of John is thought-provoking and inspiring.
1. The Gospel itself is designed to produce belief (a faith that is working - since it is the verb form of the word).
  2. The belief that Christ is the Son of God (**John 20:30-31** (NKJV) - 30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. - which is the stated Theme of the book)- and yet in this belief we come to know the Father - **John 1:18 ; John 14:7-11**
    - a. **John 1:18** (NKJV) - 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.
    - b. **John 14:7-11** (NKJV) - 7 “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” 8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.
- B. Every part has it's own special power. - **Chapters 1-12** - Consist of His Public Ministry, Beginning in **Chapter 13** we see John’s focus transition from His public Ministry to His final days and we get to see the private teachings of Christ of His disciples and the work they will do after His departure.
1. With the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead, John has set the stage for the final days of Christ’s ministry on earth . . .
    - a. The anointing (**12:1-8**)
    - b. Plot to kill Lazarus (**12:9-11**)
    - c. The triumphal entry (**12:12-19**).
    - d. The fruitful grain of wheat (**12:20-26**).
    - e. Jesus speaks of His death (**12:27-36**)
    - f. Jewish national unbelief & Jesus’ response (**12:37-50**).
  2. But here in the 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter we see the Nature of Christ and the lesson we must all learn in our service in His Kingdom.
- C. Listen with me to this one story today, and let's see what it might teach us.
1. How we come to know God in a way that we often do not think of!
  2. **John 13:1-17**-(NKJV) - 1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. 2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, “Lord, are You washing my feet?” 7 Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.” 8 Peter said to Him, “You shall never wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” 9 Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!” 10 Jesus said to him, “He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but

is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.” 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, “You are not all clean.” 12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

3. **Chapters 13–17** concentrate on His teachings on that fateful night in which He was arrested.
  - a. John’s Gospel reports more of the content of Jesus’ instructions to His disciples than the others.
  - b. Before these instructions, Jesus teaches them the most important lesson as He washes His disciples’ feet -

## II. **JESUS WASHED THE DISCIPLES' FEET.** - **John 13:1-10**

A. Setting: Supper with "his own," after his "public ministry" has drawn to a close.

1. **Vrs 1** - Jesus knew that His hour had come to die in obedience to the Father’s will & that His glorification would follow His obedience - **Heb 2:9ff; 5:8,9; 12:1,2- ch. 7:6, 30; 8:20; 12:23; 17:1; 18:4**
  - a. **Hebrews 2:9** (NKJV) - 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.
  - b. **Hebrews 5:8** (NKJV) - 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,
  - c. **Hebrews 12:1** (NKJV) - 1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
  - d. **John 7:6** (NKJV) - 6 Then Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.
  - e. **John 7:30** (NKJV) - 30 Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.
  - f. **John 8:20** (NKJV) - 20 These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.
  - g. **John 12:23** (NKJV) - 23 But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.
  - h. **John 17:1** (NKJV) - 1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,
  - i. **John 18:4** (NKJV) - 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?”
2. Jesus’ love for His disciples was constant & to the “uttermost”
  - a. I want to remind you of this fact - Christ knew what Judas was going to do!
  - b. **Vrs 2-3** (NKJV) - 2 And supper **being ended**, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, --- Other translations, “being prepared,” “being served,” or, “going on”; for that it was not “ended” is plain from **Jn 13:26**. (NKJV) - 26 Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped

it.” And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

(1) “Put into the heart of Judas” ... referring to the agreement already made with the chief priests (**Luke 22:3-6** (NKJV) - 3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. 4 So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.

(2) Jesus had predicted this **John 6:70-71** (NKJV) - 70 Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” 71 He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

(3) Later Satan enters Judas - **John 13:27** (NKJV) - 27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”

c. How difficult it is to do GOOD to those who have wronged us or about to wrong us!

B. Jesus dresses like a servant, and starts washing feet. Note: Jesus knew (**cf. vv. 1, 18**) His sovereign authority, His origin, and coming destiny; yet He voluntarily took the place of a slave, washing the feet of His disciples. - (cf. **Philippians 2:5-8** (NKJV) - 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

1. His action contrasts sharply with their self-seeking (**cf. Matt. 20:20-24; Mark 9:33-34; Luke 22:24-30**)

a. **Matthew 20:20-24** (NKJV) - 20 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 21 And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.” 22 But Jesus answered and said, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They said to Him, “We are able.” 23 So He said to them, “You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.” 24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.

b. **Mark 9:33-34** (NKJV) - 33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, “What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?” 34 But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.

c. **Luke 22:24-30** (NKJV) - 24 Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. 25 And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called ‘benefactors.’ 26 But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. 27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. 28 “But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. 29 And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, 30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

2. Place of "foot washing" in ancient days - was customary for the host to wash the feet of the guests since they would travel by foot on unpaved roads.

a. Here, feet extending behind them at table - the arrangement of laying propped up on the side (usually left side) at the table with head toward the food. (Reference to John being in the Bosom of Christ is a reflection of this custom).

b. Action: a simple pouring water over the feet & then drying with a hand towel.

3. What is to be noted here Brethren is that this is the Son of God - who:
- a. Left heaven – **John 6:51** (NKJV) - 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”
  - b. Relinquished the glory He had in heaven – **John 17:5** (NKJV) - 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.
  - c. Became a man! – **Phil 2:5-8; Heb 2:10-18; 4:14-16**
    - (1) **Philippians 2:5-8** (NKJV) - 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
    - (2) **Hebrews 2:10-18** (NKJV) - 10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying: “I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.” 13 And again: “I will put My trust in Him.” And again: “Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.” 14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.
    - (3) **Hebrews 4:14-16** (NKJV) - 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
  - d. Became POOR! – **2 Cor. 8:9; Mat 4:2; 8:20; Jn 4:6**
    - (1) **2 Corinthians 8:9** (NKJV) - 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
    - (2) **Matthew 4:2** (NKJV) - 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.
    - (3) **Matthew 8:20** (NKJV) - 20 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”
    - (4) **John 4:6** (NKJV) - 6 Now Jacob’s well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.
  - e. Suffered at the hands of cruel men & crucified! – **Isa 53; Mat 26:47-27:50; 1 Pt 2:23,24**
    - (1) **Matthew 26:47-27:50** (NKJV) - 47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. 48 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.” 49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. 50 But Jesus said to him, “Friend, why have you come?” Then they came and laid hands

<sup>1</sup> The New King James Version. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1982

on Jesus and took Him. 51 And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. 52 But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? 54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" 55 In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. 56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled. 57 And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. 58 But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end. 59 Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, 60 but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward 61 and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' " 62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" 63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" 64 Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." 65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! 66 What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." 67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, 68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?" 69 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." 70 But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." 71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72 But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" 73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." 74 Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly. 1 When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. 2 And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. 3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" 5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. 6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." 7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. 8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, 10 and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me." 11 Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "It is as you say." 12 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. 13 Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" 14 But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly. 15 Now at the feast the governor was

accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. 16 And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. 17 Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” 18 For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy. 19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, “Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.” 20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. 21 The governor answered and said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” They said, “Barabbas!” 22 Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said to him, “Let Him be crucified!” 23 Then the governor said, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they cried out all the more, saying, “Let Him be crucified!” 24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.” 25 And all the people answered and said, “His blood be on us and on our children.” 26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. 27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. 28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified. 32 Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross. 33 And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, 34 they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink. 35 Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: “They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.” 36 Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. 37 And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. 38 Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left. 39 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads 40 and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” 41 Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, 42 “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. 43 He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” 44 Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing. 45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” 47 Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, “This Man is calling for Elijah!” 48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. 49 The rest said, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.” 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

- (2) **1 Peter 2:23** (NKJV) - 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed.

f. Done with awareness of His imminent death (v. 2)

- (1) Done with awareness of his exalted position (v. 3)
  - (2) Girded self with towel – dressed like a servant (v. 4)
  - (3) Acts of a servant (v. 5)
  - (4) Peter objects (in many ways we like Peter - we do not submit to being a servant of others) - Jesus explains - Peter submits - (v. 6-10)
- C. He washes all--even Judas--although Peter objects.
- D. "Do you know what I have done to you?" Christ teaches both by word and deed. What is Jesus trying to teach his disciples here?
1. **Vrs 12-17** - The true teacher SERVES - **12,13; Mat 20:26-28; 1 Tim 3:1-10; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Pet 5**
    - a. **John 13:12-13** (NKJV) - 12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.
    - b. **Matthew 20:26-28** (NKJV) - 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
    - c. **1 Timothy 3:1-10** (NKJV) - 1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; 3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; 4 one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence 5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. 8 Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, 9 holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. 10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.
    - d. **Acts 20:28-31** (NKJV) - 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.
    - e. **1 Peter 5** (NKJV) - 1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. 5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 12 By Silvanus, our

faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand. 13 She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son. 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

2. We are to follow the EXAMPLE of Jesus - **14,15** - (**12:26; Lk 9:23-26; 57-62; 1 Pet 2:21; 4:1-3; Phili 2:1-10; 1 Jn 2:6**)
  - a. **John 12:26** (NKJV) - 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.
  - b. **Luke 9:23-26** (NKJV) - 23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? 26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.
  - c. **Luke 9:57-62** (NKJV) - 57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." 59 Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." 61 And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
  - d. **1 Peter 2:21** (NKJV) - 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:
  - e. **1 Peter 4:1-3** (NKJV) - 1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.
  - f. **Philippians 2:1-10** (NKJV) - 1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
  - g. **1 John 2:6** (NKJV) - 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.
  - h. Not to follow the example of Jesus is to exalt oneself above Him and to live in pride. **16,17**

### III. **JESUS' LOVE FOR HIS OWN.**

- A. John's Gospel is known for the way it shows us God's love for the world (**3:16**), but it also shows us Jesus' special love for "his own" (**13:1; 17:6**), his sheep (**10:14**), his friends (**15:9ff**).

- B. THIS ACT SYMBOLIZED HIS WHOLE LIFE WITH THEM**--He had a special love for them, and he expressed it by a special service to them. See in John how:
1. As a shepherd leads his sheep, he led them to eternal life, feeding them on his words, the bread of life. **10:1ff; 6:68.**
  2. He cleansed them. **13:10; 15:3.**
  3. He prayed for them. **17:1ff.**
  4. He died for them. **10:11; 15:13.**
    - a. It's no wonder, then, that they were so troubled and sorrowed when he said he was leaving them (**13:37; 16:6; 16:20**).
- C. The other Gospels show us the same--the depth of his special love and service for his disciples.**
1. **Mark 10:45.** He came to serve.
  2. He recovered them.
  3. He labored to teach them.
  4. He prayed for them. **Luke 22:32.**
  5. He died for them.
- D. THIS ACT SYMBOLIZES, TOO, HIS CONTINUED SERVICE OF HIS OWN.** Our feet have been washed by him too.
1. One thing he tried to teach them in chapters **14-17**: He would be gone, but he would yet live, and yet serve them just as he had.
  2. Some ways he yet serves us.
    - a. He died for us. **1 Cor 15:3** (NKJV) - 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
    - b. He teaches & shepherds us. We are yet disciples. **Acts 11:27** (NKJV) - 27 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch.
    - c. He cleanses us. **1 Jn 1:7** (NKJV) - 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
    - d. He prays for us. **Rom 8:34.** (NKJV) - 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
    - e. He strengthens us. **Phil 4:13.** (NKJV) - 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
    - f. He never leaves us. **Mt 28:20 ; Heb 13:5.**
      - (1) **Matthew 28:20** (NKJV) - 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
      - (2) **Hebrews 13:5** (NKJV) - 5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
  3. We call him Master and Lord, and yet he serves us this way. He washes our feet, too.

#### IV. **THE EFFECT OF THIS LOVE UPON US.**

- A. Jesus was trying hard to get them to see his special love and service for them. Our prayer today is that we might see the same, that we "may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge" (**Eph 3:18-19**), for the realization of his love has an effect on us. As Paul said, "the love of Christ constraineth us." (**2 Cor 5:14**) What does it constrain us to do?**
- B. WE COME AND FOLLOW; WE LOVE AND OBEY.**
1. Not all of them were so moved by Him--He washed the feet of Judas, but Judas then betrayed him. But if we will drive Satan out of our hearts, we too will can only be drawn to . . .
    - a. Love him.
    - b. Worship him. **John 20:28** (NKJV) - 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and

my God!"

- c. Hear and obey him, e.g., when he commissions us.
  - d. Let ourselves be taught and tended by him.
2. The way he is with us makes us want to follow him. **Mt 11:28-30** (NKJV) - 28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."
- a. If we will drive Satan from our hearts, we cannot but fail to be so attracted to him, to the meek and lowly one, who washes our feet.

### C. WE WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET.

1. Jesus didn't just wash one disciple's feet, but every disciple's. If Jesus washed the feet of the one sitting beside me, how can I refuse to do so?
2. Jesus wants us to see how that his special love for us ought to move us to . . .
  - a. Wash one another's feet, for he has washed the feet of all. **13:13-14**. No "ordinance" here, but this demand:
    - (1) The attitude of humility, respect, and selflessness towards them.
    - (2) The actions of service, of doing for.
  - b. Tend his sheep, for he has tended them. **21:15-17**.
  - c. Lay down our lives for each one, for he laid down his life for each one.
    - (1) **Jn. 3:16**. Give ourselves wholly to doing for them.
3. We can put it this way, too: The Lord has us not only to eat his supper, but to eat it together. Eating it with these others reminds you that he died for them as well as you. How can you or I, then, refuse to die for them?
4. **Romans 12:9-18** (NKJV) - 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

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### V. Conclusion.

- A. We've tried to call to your attention to love of Jesus Christ which he has for his own. What, now, are you and I going to do about it?
- B. Will you come and love this one who serves you and gives himself so freely?
  1. Or will you be like Judas, and let Satan control your heart? Come and follow him, and love and serve those whom he has loved and served.

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<sup>1</sup> *The New King James Version*. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1982