

JOHN 13:1-20
AN EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 13 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

As we have seen over the last few weeks in our study of John, the cross is getting closer and closer, and as we will see here, it is only less than a day away.

Also, we will see in John chapters 13-17, that John fills in the details of the Passover evening, what took place from the Passover meal and then in chapter 18 we see it open up with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane where He will be arrested.

And we have, in a sense here in John chapters 13 through 17 our Lord's "*farewell message*" to His disciples as He tries to comfort their hearts in the present and prepare their hearts for the future.

I want to share with you a farewell address from President Ronald Regan. Yes, some of you may not know who he was, but if not, he was a great president, and his farewell address was not followed through by the American people. Thus, we see what we have today.

Listen to what he said back in 1989,

Finally, there is a great tradition of warnings in Presidential farewells, and I've got one that's been on my mind for some time.

But oddly enough it starts with one of the things I'm proudest of in the past eight years: the resurgence of national pride that I called the new patriotism. This national feeling is good, but it won't count for much, and it won't last unless it's grounded in thoughtfulness and knowledge.

An informed patriotism is what we want. And are we doing a good enough job teaching our children what America is and what she represents in the long history of the world?

Those of us who are over 35 or so years of age grew up in a different America. We were taught, very directly, what it means to be an American. And we absorbed, almost in the air, a love of country and an appreciation of its institutions. If you didn't get these things from your family, you got them from the neighborhood, from the father down the street who fought in Korea or the family who lost someone at Anzio. Or you could get a sense of patriotism from school.

And if all else failed you could get a sense of patriotism from the popular culture. The movies celebrated democratic values and implicitly reinforced the idea that America was special. TV was like that, too, through the mid-60s.

But now, we're about to enter the nineties, and some things have changed. Younger parents aren't sure that an unambivalent appreciation of America is the right thing to teach modern children.

And as for those who create the popular culture, well-grounded patriotism is no longer the style. Our spirit is back, but we haven't re-institutionalized it. We've got to do a better job of getting across that America is freedom - freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of enterprise. And freedom is special and rare. It's fragile; it needs protection.

So, we've got to teach history based not on what's in fashion but what's important - why the Pilgrims came here, who Jimmy Doolittle was, and what those 30 seconds over Tokyo meant.

You know, four years ago on the 40th anniversary of D-day, I read a letter from a young woman writing to her late father, who'd fought on Omaha Beach.

Her name was Lisa Zanatta Henn, and she said, ‘we will always remember, we will never forget what the boys of Normandy did.’ Well, let’s help her keep her word.

If we forget what we did, we won’t know who we are. I’m warning of an eradication of the American memory that could result, ultimately, in an erosion of the American spirit. Let’s start with some basics: more attention to American history and a greater emphasis on civic ritual.

And let me offer lesson number one about America: All great change in America begins at the dinner table. So, tomorrow night in the kitchen I hope the talking begins. And children, if your parents haven’t been teaching you what it means to be an American, let ‘em know and nail ‘em on it. That would be a very American thing to do.

- <https://to.pbs.org/3OSbfHh>

That was only part of his speech, but he nailed it. And look at where we are at today, we don’t know what America is about. We think America is an evil nation imposing its rights on other nations. It is so bad that many would rather move to socialism or communism than remain a republic, or what we have been told today, a democracy! They have no idea what they are talking about and what they are asking for!

Now, in saying all that, what does that have to do with what we will be looking at this morning?

Everything!

You see, Jesus is going to be teaching His men what a servant is all about. And when you look at the church today, you tend to see spectators and not servants. Kind of like what was happening at this Passover meal. The disciples of Jesus were all there and they were waiting, and they were watching who was going to wash the feet of the people there and no one came forward except the Creator of Heaven and Earth, Jesus Christ!

It was – ***AN EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY!***

Ray Stedman gives us this insight into this section of the Gospel of John. He wrote,

As the Lord enters the Upper Room with his disciples it is a somber and crucial hour in his ministry. The shadow of the cross looms larger and darker over his pathway.

The disciples are nervous and tense as they see the growing opposition of the authorities to Jesus, and the evident plot to do away with him.

It's clearly evident that John has deliberately supplemented his account to what the other gospels report. In Matthew, Mark, and Luke the central feature of the Upper Room is the institution of communion, the Lord's Supper. But strikingly, John does not mention this at all in his account. In its place, however, he gives us an incident which the other gospels do not report:

The washing of the disciples' feet.

- <https://bit.ly/3oR53Vr>

Like I have said, this is an important lesson that Jesus is teaching His men and us, and the title of this message – ***AN EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY!***

I have broken these verses we will be looking at this morning into four main points and they are as follows,

KNOWING THE TIME – JOHN 13:1-4

A SERVANTS HEART – JOHN 13:5

PETER OPPOSING THE LORD – JOHN 13:6-11

AN EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY – JOHN 13:12-20

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 13, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this very important lesson.

JOHN 13

VERSES 1-4

Notice again how John opens this chapter up. He says, "**Now before the feast of the Passover . . .**" John 13:1.

What is interesting to me is that most don't even comment on this. But there is something we need to deal with. Was this the Passover meal as the other Gospels tell us, or was it another meal as John seems to be saying?

Who is right about this, which meal was it?

This troubled me a lot. Jesus was to be crucified on Passover so how in the world could He celebrate Passover with His men? It made no sense to me until I understood what it was like in the days of Jesus, how this was celebrated by different groups of people!

So, again, who is right about this, which meal was it?

Let me put it like this. They both are right, and it was the Passover meal!

Now you may be thinking, *“Pastor Joe, how can that be. That would mean there were two different Passovers because John said that this took place before the Passover!”*

I think the Passover that Jesus is celebrating here is the Passover that was observed by the Galileans and the Pharisees.

And the Passover that was celebrated when Jesus was crucified was the Passover that was celebrated by those in Judea and the Sadducees.

And, as you can see, John is saying that this was before the Passover that the Jews in Judea and the Sadducees would celebrate.

In knowing that, it would mean that Jesus celebrated Passover with His men, as we see Matthew, Mark, Luke and I believe John is telling us. But He was also crucified on Passover as well!

Let me show you what I mean.

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

Josephus, the great Jewish historian who was a Pharisee, living in Jesus' day, explained the law of the Passover. And he said the Paschal lamb has to be eaten during the night and nothing left for morning. The Mishna says it must be eaten by midnight. So they both were committed to the fact that whoever ate it, you had to eat it before the dawn of another day, before the morning time.

Now listen very carefully. As you dig into this history a little bit, and this is what I found fascinating, the Galileans - that's the northern people - and the Pharisees counted the day from sunrise to sunrise, the day of Passover. Whereas the Judean and Sadducees counted it from sunset to sunset.

You say, “How do you know that?”

The Mishna, which is the codification of Jewish law, tells us that. It says, for example, that the Galileans would not work at all on the day of Passover. Why? Because the day began for them at the beginning. It says that the Judeans would work until the midday, because the day didn't begin for them until the sunset.

Now you say, "Well, what does all this mean?" Listen very carefully.

First thing it does is it harmonizes John 18 and 19 because it tells us that Galileans, which would be Jesus and His disciples and the Pharisees, could have their Passover on the evening . . . because they already began to count the day from morning to morning and it would end on [the next] morning. And the others who were from Judea and who were Sadducees which made up the rulers wouldn't start their day festivities until late [in the evening] and wouldn't kill their lamb until the end of the [next] day . . . Now you say, "Why is that important?"

Listen to me. It's odd that it would be like that. It's very odd. And we really can't identify specifically as to how that came to pass.

But what fascinates me is this, listen very carefully. Jesus had to die on . . . crucified . . . when the traditional Judean Jerusalem Passover lambs would be killed, from three to five [in the evening] . . . He had to die then. That's why it says, "In the ninth hour."

He also had to keep the Passover because He had to transform it into the Lord's table.

So, how could Jesus keep the Passover and still be the Passover lamb?

There would be absolutely no way that that could be possible unless God allowed this kind of thing to take place in history so that when it came to the very moment that Jesus was going to die, in that very year, there was no problem in having a Galilean Passover . . . and dying in the Judean Passover . . . perfectly on schedule and violating no Jewish law at all.

- John MacArthur

So Jesus not only celebrated the Passover meal with his men, He also was crucified on Passover as the Passover lambs were being sacrificed.

It is as Paul reminds us regarding Jesus, **“Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”** I Corinthians 5:7.

And then John tells us, **“... when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father . . .”**

Remember what I have called these verses – *KNOWING THE TIME!*

You see, prior to this time we have seen Jesus speak of His hour not coming yet, but here it has come. The cross is hours away and He will fulfill the mission He was sent to do!

Make no mistake about it, the reason He was born was to die! He came to pay a debt He did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay. The debt for our sin He paid in full on the Cross of Calvary!

But don't leave it there like so many do. When you go into a Roman Catholic Church there is Jesus still on the cross. No, He is not. And yes, He was born to die to pay in full the penalty for our sins, but He was also going to rise from the dead the third day, conquering death.

It is as Paul said in I Corinthians 15:20-22, **“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”**

Praise God for His finished work on the Cross of Calvary for us!

What about you? Do you know the time?

Don't look at your watch, that is not what I am talking about.

I am talking about knowing the days you are living in and are you doing what God has called you to do?

Now some may complain how bad it is, how evil this world is, how they are taking away all our freedoms, that they are doing this to us and that to us, and I am not saying it is not happening.

But what was it like for the early church?

It was not good and yet they rejoiced knowing that they were there for such a time as that, to spread the Gospel message in a very dark and violent world!

Remember when Peter and John are arrested by the Jewish religious leaders in Acts chapter 4. They finally let them go and when they got back to the brethren, notice what they are praying about. And it was not for things to get easier or that the persecution would stop.

In Acts 4:29-31 we are told, **“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”**

They prayed for boldness to speak forth the Word of God in a city and a world that was in opposition to it!

And the same is true for us. Yes, we were not there for the start of the church, but it is very possible that we are here for the close of the Church Age as the Lord calls His Bride home!

So let's know the time, the days we are living in and use that time to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To speak the Word of God with boldness as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit during this very dark world we are living in, and it will only get darker!

Now, how is that seen in our life or manifested in our life?

John tells us, “**. . . having loved His own who were in the world. He loved them to the end.**”

Now don't come to the conclusion that John is saying that Jesus loved His own until He died. That is not what the text is saying!

Tenny points this out for us as he wrote, “***‘To the fullest extent’ is a better rendering of the original eis telos than KJV ‘unto the end.’ It does not mean that Jesus continued to love his disciples only up to the end of his career but that his love has no limits.***”

I like the way some translations have this. They say, “**He loved them to the uttermost.**” I like that because even when the disciples blew it, He loved them. Even when they denied Him, He loved them. Even when they locked themselves in a room because they were afraid, He loved them!

And here is the wonderful thing. He loves us to the uttermost! Now, in saying that, does that mean He doesn't love the unsaved?

Not at all, He loves us all for as Paul said in Romans 5:8, “**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**”

The difference is we love Him back, we respond to His love towards us while the unsaved don't.

It is as Jeremiah 31:3 says, **“The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.’”**

God’s love is everlasting, it is to the uttermost!

In knowing God’s love for us, how He knew the cross was before Him, and His love was still strong. What about your love for the brethren, what about your love for the lost?

We can make all kinds of excuses why we are mad at someone, why we don’t like someone, why this and why that, but do you think our Lord and Savior can say the same about us?

He could but He doesn’t because His love is unconditional, even when the cross was before Him. He did not let that stop Him from loving people, even His own men who were arguing who would be the greatest in the Kingdom at this Passover meal!

Lord, please keep our hearts soft and your love flowing to those around us, especially in the days we are living in.

Now you may think that we are done with the difficult passages, but not yet. You see, here in John 13:2 it is a little confusing. John tells us that the supper, the Passover meal had ended. But, in the other Gospels it seems to indicate that Judas left before the meal was over, before communion was instituted, and here it seems to indicate the exact opposite.

Also, in John 13:30 it speaks of the meal still being in progress when Judas left, **“Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.”**

So, what is up with this? (Also, we see this in John 13:27)

Please understand that there are some ancient manuscripts that say the **“supper was now in progress”** instead of the **“supper being ended.”**

And as you look at the totality of this chapter, it seems to fit the text more accurately. In the ancient Greek language one letter changes the meaning, so it may have been a copyist error in some of the ancient manuscripts.

What we should note from this is the Passover meal had already begun when Jesus rose to wash the feet of His men.

In fact, Bruce puts it like this, *“‘Supper was now in progress’ is a preferable reading to the variant ‘Supper having ended,’ chiefly because the sequel (verses 13:30) makes it plain that supper had not ended. The point is that supper had already begun when Jesus rose from the table and began to wash the disciples’ feet.”*

We must also note that Jesus did not lose control, things did not get out of hand, and He was put to death. This was going according to the plan of God, and before glory, before returning to the Father, there would be death!

John tells us, **“Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands and that He had come from God and was going to God.”** John 13:3.

And the Scriptures were fulfilled in the work that Jesus not only came to do but He finished that work!

So here they are, gathered around this table that was low to the ground, not like our tables today. And Jesus got up to wash the feet of the disciples.

Why did Jesus get up to do this task?

Because no one else was getting up to do this lowly task.

And we are going to be looking at next – ***A SERVANTS HEART!***

VERSE 5

Keep in mind that these men were to be servants of Jesus, they ministered to Him, helped Him out.

Also, keep in mind that Luke tells us in chapter 22 of his Gospel that at some point the disciples are arguing who is going to be the greatest in the Kingdom.

I believe it is out of all that pride, all that arrogance, not one of them was willing to humble themselves and to wash the feet of the men who were there for this Passover meal. Not one of them!

With all that was before Jesus, He was now teaching His men about having – A

SERVANTS HEART!

Now, for the most part, we wear shoes today and we have sidewalks and paved roads, so our feet do not get as dirty as they did in Jesus' day.

They walked around in sandals and your feet got dirty walking down those dirt roads.

So, as you would enter a home, it was the job of the lowest servant to wash your feet. If there was no servant, at least water should have been provided for you to do it.

And the reason this was so important before you ate a meal was that they would not sit in chairs around a table. In other words, the painting of the Last Supper is not correct!

You see, they would lie down around a table known as a triclinium. This was a low, U-shaped table, kind of coffee-table height. Thus, they would lean on pillows and their feet were behind them.

Not something that you would want to see or smell as you were eating a meal!

And where they sat was around the host of the meal, and this time the host was Jesus, and where you sat reflected how close they were to this leader or host.

And like I said, Jesus is going to teach them a lesson of being a servant, something that they were going to need to do as He departed from this world. They were to carry on the work through the empowering of the Holy Spirit in their lives!

Now think about all that is taking place here and why the disciples of Jesus didn't even think of doing a lowly task like this.

Remember what I said regarding what Luke tells us of this time, **“Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.”** Luke 22:24.

The night before Jesus was to go to the cross of Calvary, they are arguing who would be the greatest in the Kingdom! Do you really think they were going to wash anyone's feet? Of course not, they would not even wash their own, that was the duty of a servant.

And thus, Jesus was showing these men who would carry on the ministry what ministry is all about, ***SERVANTHOOD!***

It is as Mark 10:45 tells us, **“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”**

Can you imagine this, the Creator of heaven and earth girds Himself and washes the feet of His men and in doing so He is showing us what we need to do – minister to others!

Let's put this into perspective of what was going on here. As one writer put it,

At this critical moment, at this evening before the torture of the cross, Jesus did not think of Himself. He thought about His disciples. Truly, this was loving them to the end. After all, Jesus' disciples treated Him badly and were about to treat Him even worse, forsaking Him completely; yet He loved them.

- David Guzek

People have all kinds of ideas of what love is all about today. But we need to remember that true love is not just a word, it speaks of action! It is not just a feeling; it is an act of your will!

True love will respond with deeds! And this love that we see in Jesus, He wants it to be seen in us. A love that gives in spite of what we might be going through. A love that gives in spite of the difficulties we face. It is a love that gives and gives and gives.

The cross was before Jesus and He is showing His men, and us, love is given in the things that we do for others no matter what is happening in our life, even *DEATH!*

You may have heard it said or maybe you have said it, that you can't help others until you help yourself first.

If that were the case, no one would do anything! Did Jesus have a right to say, "*Hey guys, I am going to the cross in several hours here, can you do this for Me, or can you do that for Me?*"

I guess He had the right, but He did not say that. In fact, at this point He just got up, girded Himself with a towel and washed their feet! That is love! That is being a servant!

I think that love impacted Peter so much that years later, when he wrote his first epistle or letter, he said in I Peter 5:5, "**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.'**"

Peter is basically saying, "*wrap the apron of humility around yourself.*" May this example of servanthood be engrained in our hearts and minds.

Now, to wash their feet Jesus had to bow down and it is a sign of humility!

If our Lord and Savior could do that, why can't we?

And I am sure we have many excuses, but they won't fly. To humble yourself it means you need to submit yourself, first to God and that then will be manifested in how you submit yourself to others.

In Ephesians chapter 5, in that section that deals with relationships, we see, relationships between a husband and his wife, with their children and children with their parents, with your boss and if you are a boss how you treat your employees. And what happens many times is that people just dig into that section and tell us how we are to do these things.

But in doing so they are missing the main point.

What is the main point?

Listen to what we are told in Ephesians 5:18-21, “**And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.**”

Here is the first key in humility. You must be filled with the Holy Spirit, or you must be empowered by the Holy Spirit or what you are trying to do will just be fleshly.

And notice what happens when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. You are speaking of spiritual things, you have a song in your heart, there is joy in your life, you can give thanks to God for all the things that you are going through.

And if that is missing, then you need to go back and submit to the Lord, surrender to Him, be filled with the Holy Spirit!

And for all of us, like I have said, if you are going to humble yourself to others, serve them, you first must submit yourself or humble yourself before God!

That is the key, and it is when we do that, we see that our relationships with our fellow man will also be in line, our marriages will be in line, and-so-on!

But we can oppose what the Lord wants to do in our lives and that is what we are going to see with Peter – ***PETER OPPOSING THE LORD!***

VERSES 6-11

As you read this it seems like Peter is the last one to get his feet washed, why?

Keep in mind that for this meal they laid on the floor around this low table to eat and Peter was on the other end of the table, the last spot. He was not in the place of honor next to Jesus, Judas was!

And finally, after Jesus washes all their feet He comes to Peter and Peter is like, ***“No way Lord, you are never, ever going to wash my feet.”***

Was Peter serious about Jesus not washing his feet?

You bet; Peter was very serious about this. He could not let his Lord wash his feet.

Now some feel that this was just a false humility, maybe trying to impress the other disciples. We don't know for sure, but Alford picks up on this and he wrote, ***“The same well-meaning but false humility would prevent him (and does prevent many) from stooping to receive at the hands of the Lord that spiritual washing which is absolutely necessary in order to have any part in Him.”***

I do find that interesting because pride, refusing to humble oneself before the Lord will keep them from the Lord.

Now what did Peter have to do to receive this washing, this cleansing?

People have all kinds of ideas, but I want you to notice what Jesus did not say.

He did not say . . .

If you do not have great holiness, you have no part with Me.

If you are not a Bible expert, you have no part with Me.

If you do not do enough good works, you have no part with Me.

And the list can go on, but that is not what Jesus said.

Then what did He say?

He said, "**If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.**" John 13:8.

Having a part with Jesus begins simply with *receiving* something from Him, not achieving something by our efforts.

Salvation is a free gift of God that is given to those who come to Jesus and ask Him to forgive them of their sins and to be Lord and Savior of their lives.

I think that Jesus is speaking of that fellowship with Him. That we can't have fellowship with Him apart from receiving Him. You see, our sin separates us from God, and it is only by the cleansing of Jesus' shed blood that we are made as white as snow.

If we are not bathed in Christ, if we don't accept the cleansing power of Jesus in our life then we are not His, we are not saved. We need a total body cleansing and that only can happen as the blood of Christ washes our sins away and we are as white as snow!

Remember the song, *There is a Fountain Filled with Blood*? Listen to what is said,

There is a fountain filled with blood,

Drawn from Emmanuel's veins.

And sinners plunged beneath that flood

Lose all their guilty stains.

Praise God for that! And please understand that the word “**wash**” in John 13:5-6, 8, 12 and 14 is **NIPTO** and it means “*to wash a part of the body.*”

But the word translated “**washed**” in John 13:10 is **LOUO** and it means “*to bathe all over.*”

Obviously, there is a big difference here.

Remember what John told us in Revelation 1:5-6, “**and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**”

By His shed blood our sins have been washed away, completely! It is finished, the work was completed by Jesus on the cross of Calvary!

Now there is a difference between a complete body cleansing and a washing. You see, we are clean in Christ but then we do need to have our feet washed often.

Why?

Because as we travel through this world, we get dirty, the filth of this world likes to cling and attach itself to us, so as we step back, we need to cleanse our feet by being in the Word of God for if we don't, we begin to stink, we are dirty!

We have been saved, washed in the blood of Jesus, but now we keep clean, sanctification, by the Word of God.

David put it this way in Psalm 119:9-11, “**How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.**”

Also, in Ephesians 5:26 Paul tells us, **“that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.”**

We need this washing not to maintain our salvation; it is a free gift of God, but to maintain our fellowship with Him, keeping those lines of communication open!

We might think of it like this. The Christian life consists of one bath – *SALVATION*; and many foot-washings – *FELLOWSHIP!*

I like the way that Spurgeon put it. He wrote, *“The priest of God, when consecrated first, was washed from head to foot, and so baptized into the service of the sanctuary; but each time he went to offer sacrifice he washed his feet and his hands in the brazen laver.”* Exactly!

And let me show you how this works. The verb *bathed* in John 13:10 is in the *perfect tense* in the Greek and denotes *“something that happened in the past, but the effects of which are ongoing now and forever.”*

However, our *daily communion* with Jesus depends on our keeping ourselves *“unspotted from the world.”*

In other words, the Christian life consists of one bath but many *“foot-washings”* as I have said. Once we are saved, it is everlasting! That work was completed by Jesus in the past but the effects of that completed work continue on for all to receive by faith!

Then, in John 13:10 and John 13:11 Jesus said in regard to His men being clean, **“... but not all of you”** and **“You are not all clean.”**

Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him, it was no surprise to Him.

In John 6:64 we are told, **“‘But there are some of you who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.”**

What surprises me is that up to the last second Jesus is still trying to draw Judas to Himself, but He refuses to come! That is the love of Jesus, it is rich, and it is deep!

And it is that same love that Jesus wants us to manifest to others. Not a man-made love, but a love that comes from God and gushes from our lives to others!

And keep in mind that Jesus washed even the feet of Judas and this paints for us a beautiful picture.

The Son of God, Jesus, came down from heaven to serve and save all of mankind, even those who were His enemies, which we all were at one time!

May we not be like – ***PETER OPPOSING THE LORD!***

Opposing what the Lord wants us to do.

As we finish up, we will be looking at – ***AN EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY!***

VERSES 12-20

Make no mistake about it, Jesus was a great teacher. He shows them what they should be doing and then He teaches them what this is all about!

This is where the rubber meets the road, it is called ***APPLICATION!*** Christianity is not just correct doctrine; it is taking what you know and applying it to your life!

Too often we know the Word of God, we know what God wants us to do, but we don't do it. You see, the blessing comes with applying the things of God to our lives, otherwise knowledge will just puff us up and in that there is no humility, just pride!

We see here that Jesus wants to make sure that they get this teaching, and His point is simple. If your Lord is doing this, then you should be doing it as well!

I hope that I have been an encouragement to you over the years. That there is nothing too small or dirty that I won't do. I think that is what leadership is about, being an example to others of what a servant of God is all about!

Jesus was an example to His men, and He is an example to us, but I think it is important for leaders to get their hands dirty, to do the work and not just show up for the study and then they are gone.

And if we refuse to do these things, then Jesus is basically saying that we must think more highly of ourselves than Him! A good perspective to have, if our Lord can do it, why can't we?

Let me also share this with you. I think it is very easy for us to point the finger and criticize those who have dirty feet. Then what should we do? Get our hands dirty and wash their feet!

Now we don't need to wash their feet literally today. But we are to minister to them, help them, show them the love of Christ!

Now, in saying that, there are some churches who still have foot washing services. But that is not the point that Jesus is making here, as I have said. He is teaching us to be servants.

Now how do I know that foot washing is not for today?

There is a simple rule to follow so you won't go astray. And you can apply this across the board. Here are three simple rules to follow.

First of all, was it taught and practiced by Jesus?

Secondly, do you find examples of this in the book of Acts, do they practice this?

Thirdly, do we find teaching on this in the epistles?

We see foot washing here but not commanded by Jesus, nor are there examples of it in the book of Acts and there is no teaching on it in the epistles.

So, it is not for today.

What about baptism? We see Jesus practice it, teach it and He command's us to be baptized. We see examples of baptism in the book of Acts. And we see teaching on baptism in the epistles. So, baptism is for today.

What about communion? Jesus practiced it, He preached about it, and He commanded us to observe it as often as we gather. We see examples of it in the book of Acts. And we see it taught on in the epistles.

So, communion is for us today. Do you see how easy that is?

How do we wash feet today?

By not judging people or condemning them but seeking to restore them. Minister to people with the love of Jesus. We are so quick to come against another, to put them down, but the idea is not their destruction, but their restoration!

Again, to put this into perspective, Spurgeon sums it up like this as he wrote, ***“If there is a position in the church where the worker will have to toil hard and get no thanks for it, take it, and be pleased with it. If you can perform a service, which few will ever seek to do themselves, or appreciate when performed by others, yet occupy it with holy delight. Covet humble work, and when you get it be content to continue in it. There is no great rush after the lowest places, you will rob no one by seeking them.”***

Exactly! There are plenty of things to be done in the church, but people want the high-profile ministry so all can see how humble they truly are!

And we see Jesus say, **“If you know these things, happy are you if you do them.”**

Don't talk the talk, walk the walk! Again, don't quote me Scripture, let me see you live it! And that goes for me as well!

Now the Greek word for **“happy”** or **“blessed”** here in John 13:17 is *MARKARIOS*, (mak-ar'-ee-os), which literally means, **“Oh how happy.”**

Now this is not the happiness like the world defines it. You see, the English word for **“happy”** is based upon an old Anglo-Saxon word *HAP*, and that speaks of chance or whatever happens, happenstance.

That is not what Jesus is speaking of here.

This Greek word that Jesus uses here is based or rooted in the heart and not in the outward circumstances, which continually change. We would call what Jesus is speaking of - **JOY!**

You see, earthly happiness is circumstantial and thus, it is uncertain. But for us as Christians, our joy is not temporary or uncertain because it is rooted in our relationship with Jesus and that is permanent and unshakable!

Then Jesus speaks of Judas, who would betray Him. And to do this Jesus goes back to the Old Testament, to Psalm 41:9 which says, **“Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.”**

And He is saying that this Psalm will be fulfilled in Him, that one of those who was close to Him will betray Him.

Of course, He was speaking of Judas and Jesus let's His men know and us know that this was not some kind of surprise to Him, He knew what Judas was going to do to Him!

Also, in verse 19 where Jesus said, **“Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.”** That is not correct once again. **“I am He”** is not what it should say.

You see, the Greek omits **“He”** and it was only added later on for clarity, but it does not make it any clearer.

What this says is, **“I AM.”** He is telling us that He is Almighty God! A pretty powerful statement and it is something that He has been saying throughout the Gospel of John!

So, in Jesus knowing this about Judas, that he would betray Jesus, points to Him being God. You see, prophecy or foretelling the future shows that God is outside the space time domain and thus, He can tell us about the beginning from the end.

In Isaiah 42:8-9 we are told, **“I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.”**

Also, in Isaiah 44:6-8, **“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’”**

As we have seen in these verses, there is the *YAHWEH the King of Israel*, and His Redeemer, the *YAHWEH of hosts!* That is speaking of God the Father and God the Son, Jesus!

Keep in mind the Bible, being 25% prophetic, and that is on the low side, some estimates put it up to around 30%, it shows us that God has spoken these things and they are there so we may believe and then after we believe that we become witnesses of Him to others!

Now in verse 20 of John chapter 13 Jesus said, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”**

In other words, it is not the messenger that saves you, it is the message that they bring to you! If the message is Christ crucified for our sins, repent and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and as you receive it, you are saved!

Look at what we have seen this morning.

We have looked at Jesus – ***KNOWING THE TIME!***

He knew that the time was at hand, and He set Himself up to finish the work that He was sent to do.

We should know what time it is and do the work that God has called us to do.

We have seen – ***A SERVANTS HEART!***

Remember, the disciples were arguing who is the greatest and Jesus bends down to wash their feet!

Are we willing to humble ourselves and minister to the needs of others no matter how dirty it may be? We need to!

Then we saw – ***PETER OPPOSING THE LORD!***

And yes, it is difficult at times as the Lord calls us to do something, and we refuse.

And for Peter, he did not want Jesus to wash his feet. But the Lord told him that if he didn't, then he had no part in Him!

Again, we talked about a complete bath in the blood of Jesus for salvation and then a daily washing in the Word of God for the cleansing of the filth that comes upon our lives in this world!

And lastly, we looked at – ***AN EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY!***

If our Lord and Savior was willing to give us this example, as the cross was before Him, as the world was coming against Him, what excuse are we giving to Him that we can't serve, that we can't minister to people?

Let me close with this. We are told,

The naturalist William Beebe told of an exercise in humility practiced during visits he made to Theodore Roosevelt at Sagamore Hill.

Often, after an evening's talk, the two men would stroll over the wide-spreading lawn and look up into the night sky. They would see who could first find the pale bit of light near the upper left-hand corner of the Great Square of Pegasus.

Then either Beebe or Roosevelt would exclaim, "That is the spiral galaxy of Andromeda! It is as large as our Milky Way. It is one of a hundred million galaxies. It is two and a half million light-years away. It consists of one hundred billion suns, many of them larger than our own sun!"

After a moment of awesome silence, Roosevelt would grin and say, "Now I think we are small enough. Let's go to bed!"

- Illustrations of Bible Truths

I think we need to have that perspective. That we realize that our Lord has created all things and we are nothing apart from Him. And if our Lord can humble himself, we are not bigger than Him, and thus, we too should humble ourselves and follow His example!

How are we to walk?

Micah 6:8 tells us, “**He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?**”

May we walk accordingly, in all humility, surrendered to the Lord and ministering to others!