

If Jesus can Wash Men's Feet... John 13:1-17

John 1-12 = Eternity past - the first 30 years of Jesus' earthly life.

John 13-21 = 24 hours of Jesus life

John 13-17 = 6 hours of time (Upper Room Discourse)

Q: What would you teach your disciples in your last 6 hours?

1. A lesson of the heart 13:3-5

(13:1) Jesus lived with a conscious awareness of time.

Lk. 2:49; John 9:4 "Night is coming when no man can work."

Ecc. 12:1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth."

(13:1) Jesus loved to the end (to the fullest degree)

Jn 15:3 no greater love than to die for your friends.

(13:2) While "loving His own" Jesus still washed the feet of Judas. Judas was the most educated, intelligent and respected of the disciples (caring for the groups money). He was also a traitor and an unbeliever. Still, Jesus chose him to join this group (**Lk 6:12-16**).

All of us minister to "God's own" (believers) and Judases, tares.

(13:3) Jesus endured the betrayal of Judas by focusing on God's sovereignty and where Jesus was ultimately going to. Offense against the church comes from pride, an absence of humility.

It's a sense in which I believe that I don't deserve to be hurt.

Phil. 2:3-5 Let this [humble] mind be in you that was in Christ.

Humility: Jesus esteemed the needs of others above His own.

(13:4-5) These verbs (in Greek) are communicating present actions. God wants to convey the sense in which we are there witnessing this for ourselves. We are to learn this example, not just the 12.

Note: This lesson comes on the heels of the disciples fighting over which of them would be greatest in the Kingdom.

2. A lesson of the hands 13:5-11

(13:5) "Jesus began to wash the disciple's feet."

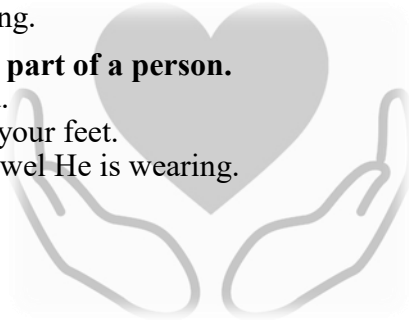
Imagine the way Jews would have observed the Lord's Supper, reclining toward or on one another in an intimate setting.

Feet were the most repugnant and unholy part of a person.

It is that which interacted with a filthy world.

You could not compel your servant to wash your feet.

(13:5) Jesus wipes their feet with the very towel He is wearing.



Jesus will bear our filth on Himself. **(13:6)** Peter objects to this. **(13:7-8)** Jesus, knowing He will be misunderstood, proceeds with the illustration, telling Peter that this is necessary for fellowship.

(13:9) Cleansing is necessary for closeness with Christ and one another. This not just physically true, but spiritually.

(13:10) Jesus will not wash Peter fully, only His feet. This is because the believer does not need completely washed for fellowship with God, but smaller cleansings (sanctification).

(13:11) Jesus also washed the feet of those who hated Him (Judas). In church, we serve the good and gentle, but also the hateful.

3. A lesson on legacy 13:12-17

(13:12) Disciples are invited to ponder the lesson of the washing. This question points out that they DON'T understand.

Luke 22:24-27 highlights the conversation of the disciples at the last supper where Jesus washed feet: Who is the greatest?

(13:13-15) If Jesus (Lord/Teacher) wash feet, so can you. The upper room is a tutorial on humility and ministry.

Q: Is foot washing an ordinance for today? A: No. It is not prescribed, taught nor exemplified elsewhere.

(13:16) Conclusion: The servant □ Master

We are not greater than Christ. If He can wash feet, so should we.

If we are not serving others in Church, it's not because we are greater than Christ. It's because we THINK we are.

Coming to church to be served, rather than to serve is not the mind of Christ, but it WAS the mind of Judas.

(13:17) Humility and service are symptoms of being "blessed."

Blessed = "Happy" that God's favor is upon them. It's the term for a believer under God's grace (See same term **Matt. 5**, Beatitudes).

Jesus is passing the baton of humble service.

We must do the same (**2 Tim. 2:2**).

We are not mature disciples until we reproduce ourselves in others.

If we don't pass on these Christian disciplines, there will arise a generation that does not know the Lord (Judges 2:10).

