**Washing Each Other’s Feet**

*John 13:1-17*

**Introduction**

1. In John 13 we see Jesus use a custom of the time to teach His apostles a lesson.
2. We should learn from this lesson as well.
3. There are different attitudes Jesus displayed in this action.
4. *“He…began to wash the disciples’ feet”* **(v. 5)**
5. This was a custom.

* In the hot, dusty climate of Palestine it was customary for individuals to wash their feet when entering a house (cf. Genesis 18:4; 19:2; 24:32; 43:24; Judges 19:21; 1 Samuel 25:41; 2 Samuel 11:8).
* **This was often a task performed by a servant. It was considered to be one of the lowest tasks they could perform.**

1. Jesus was teaching a lesson.

* Context: *“His hour had come”* **(v. 1).**
  + He had recently signified the death He would die (**cf. 12:23-33**).
    - This was 5 days before He would be betrayed (**cf. 12:1, 12; Matthew 26:2).** 🡪
* After the feast on the Passover day…
  + This, along with the rest of His teaching (cf. 13:31-17:26), must have been important.
  + He wanted to get this bit in before dying on the cross.
* The lesson learned (**cf. 13:4-5 – He began to wash their feet.)**
  + Peter recognized how condescending the action was (**cf. v. 6-8**).
    - **Peter saw His Master before Him dressed as a servant and doing a servants work. This was unacceptable to Him.**
    - Jesus was teaching a lesson, part of which was symbolic of His redemptive work.
      * ***“If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me”*** – Jesus is obviously alluding to His imminent death on the cross where His blood would be shed in service for mankind’s redemption.
  + His intentions were good, but this was Jesus’ will (**cf. v. 12-17).**
    - **Jesus came to earth to serve. His whole purpose was to redeem man – a Divine service from Creator to creation.**
      * **(v. 3) –** Jesus was not ignorant of His position of power, authority, and awaiting glory.
      * **A person of this magnitude we would not normally stoop down to this position. (If HE did, we should never hesitate.)**
* This was an act of…
  + Servitude (He performed a needed service)
  + Humility (He humbled Himself to a lower position in service to another)
  + Care (He genuinely cared for His disciples needs/well-being)
  + Love (He ultimately had love)

1. *“You also ought to wash one another’s feet”* **(v. 14)**

Christians are to be…

1. Servants of others and of Christ.

* E**phesians 2:10; Titus 2:11-14; James 1:27; Romans 12:10-13**
  + Christianity is an acting religion. It is not dead.
  + We must have the mindset of Christ to be a servant to others.
* Servitude toward the Lord is accomplished by submitting to His word.
  + **Romans 6:15-19 (We could say we are servants of righteousness.)**

1. Humble individuals.

* **1 Peter 5:5-7**
  + We are to humble ourselves in order to be exalted by God. He is the only one we should seek to please.
* **Matthew 5:3 🡪 Proverbs 16:19**
  + The church is composed of those who are *“poor in spirit.”* This is a humble mindset. Only those who are humble will receive the crown of life.
* **Philippians 2:3**
  + **When we consider what Christ did for us, and the being that He is, we should not seek exaltation over others. We are the same as everyone else, sinners who need salvation in Christ.**

1. Caring individuals.

* **Philippians 2:4**
  + The context mentions humility. However, the main point is selflessness and care.
  + See what Jesus did for us. Yes, He humbled Himself, but what He displayed an act of care (**cf. 2:5-8**).
* **1 Corinthians 8:4-13**
  + Some are too weak to know some things are indifferent to God.
  + This does not give us a right to cause them to stumble. We must care for their wellbeing and not just for our own interests.

1. Loving individuals.

* **Matthew 22:37-40**
  + All of our commandments fall under these two.
* **1 John 4:7-11; 4:20-5:5**
  + Love is vital to our faith. We must love to please God.

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus is our example to follow (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:1).
2. In His actions we see instruction on how to live our lives.
3. By this act of Servitude, Humility, Care, and Love, we see that we should do the same.