

“Jesus: The Humble Servant”

The Vine Series... John 15:5

SCRIPTURE

John 13: 1-17 (NIV)

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 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.

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, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their 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 everyone was clean. 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 Very truly I tell you, 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.

Subject Question: What three lessons does Jesus teach us concerning Godly servanthood in the washing of the Disciples feet on the night of His betrayal?

Compliment answer: The true Heart of Servanthood, The true Humility of Servanthood, and the true Honor of Servanthood

Big Idea: The three lessons Jesus teaches us concerning godly servanthood in the washing of the Disciples feet on the night of his betrayal are: The true Heart of Servanthood, The true Humility of Servanthood, and the true Honor of Servanthood.

Homiletical Idea: “God is Looking”

Purpose: I want the congregation to grasp not only Christ’s example of true and humble servanthood, but consider for themselves Christ call to be a Bond-servant for others and for Him.

Introduction: Today, we come back to our series concerning the personhood of Jesus. Who exactly is the Son of God that calls us to abide in Him? In Jesus willingness to wash the disciple’s feet he not only provided an example for us to consider but reveals to us a lifestyle to pursue. On this first Sunday after Easter, these lessons begin to answer the “now what” question concerning the Christian life after Christ’s resurrection and before His second coming.

(Put on your own towel)

Groundwork:

Servant: one that serves others <a public servant>; especially: one that performs duties about the person or home of a master or personal employer...

Humble: not proud or haughty : not arrogant or assertive. Reflecting, expressing, or offered in a spirit of deference or submission <a humble apology>

(Unison) Philippians 2: 5-11 *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

James 4: 6-11 *That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

Proud: (Good) having proper self-respect

Proud: (Not so Good) having or showing the attitude of people who think that they are better or more important than others: having or showing too much pride

- A. The True Heart of Servanthood. (vs.1) *It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*
- B. Of all of the great characteristics that Jesus left for us to not only admire, but to be challenged to emulate, none is more heart-warming and challenging as the one to develop the true heart of a servant.
- C. True servanthood stems from a great ability to love others. Jesus loved His Heavenly Father. He was ever heavenly-minded and heavenly aware. Jesus however also loved the Ones whom the Father had drawn to Him, who would believe in Him, who would walk with Him, who would in many cases eventually die for Him. He was simultaneously ever earthly-minded, concerned not with just himself but with and for the welfare of others.
- D. How can you and I develop such a heart? We cannot do it in our own strength or determination. But we have to desire it. God states that he can and will give us a pure and serving heart... to the extent that we love Him and Love His Son. Remember, Jesus said, the greatest commandment is to: “love the Lord your God with all of your heart, and all of your mind and all of all your strength”
1. Insight comes with what happens at conversion: Ezekiel 36: ²⁵ *I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws*
 2. This is what Jesus was talking about in his conversation with Nicodemus. You must be born-again. You must have a change of heart! Do you have the heart of a true servant enough to?

(Put on your own towel)

- A. The True Humility of Servanthood. (vs. 2-5) ² *The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 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.*
- B. Jesus knew by this time who indeed he was in His Father's eyes and plans: *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had*

come from God and was returning to God; His reaction to His status? Bow down and humbly wash the grime off of the dirty feet of those whom he loved. He was their teacher! He was their Master! Yet, even at His lowest moment, near the time of His crucifixion to those whom he loved, and no task was beneath his dignity to prove and to example His love for them. It was with clean feet that Judas fled to sell out His friend.

- C. 1 Peter 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.* There is so much to be thankful for as a Christian. We are heaven bound. We are indeed a chosen people. We are joint heirs with Christ. Most of us don't have a true sense of humility, because most of the time we really don't believe the incredible status that we actually have with God and Christ. True humility only comes when you deliberately lay aside what you KNOW you have in order to truly put another person FIRST. Not because they deserve it, but because it emulates what Christ has done for us.
- D. When it comes to our relationship with others, especially our Christian family members... How hard is it really to, as Paul states in Philippians 2: *³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit? Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

“The test of humility comes with an examination of our words. For when humility rules the heart, words that escape the mouth only ever build up, encourage, speak positively, and refuse to be intoxicated with the power to hurt and destroy.” Hurting people hurt people... we understand that, but it's not really an emotional problem as much as it is a spiritual one!! How do we remedy our lack of humility: We start by...

(Put on your own towel)

- A. The True Honor of Servanthood. (vs. 6-17) *⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus 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!” ¹⁰Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” ¹¹For he knew who was*

going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean. 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 Very truly I tell you, 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.

- B. The true HONOR of servanthood is usually missed by those whom deserve it the most. Mainly because their love for Christ has blinded them to things such as bad pride or inflated ego.
- C. The true honor of servanthood often overlooks the objections and sarcasm inflicted by others, even from family members and friends like Peter....
- D. The True Honor is servanthood is found in the fact that when others talk about this Jesus, your name is often mentioned. The true honor of servanthood is to find yourself at the end of your life realizing the reality of what Jesus taught but you never quite grasped: *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?*