

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 3RD-4TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

FOOT WASHING (JOHN 13:1-11) SECOND HALF PREVIEW

The "Book of Signs" (John 1-12) centers on Jesus' public ministry. The "Book of Glory" (John 13-21), however, shifts our attention to Jesus' private ministry, to the hour of His glorification (the cross).

- Jesus now must say farewell to His followers and begin His return to the Father.

JESUS KNEW...

He knew that "the Father had given everything into His hands, that He had come from God, and that He was going back to God."

- **He knew His identity and purpose** and this is how He is able to handle the next 24 hours. **A relationship with Jesus is the only way we can endure the trials in this life.**

"HIS HOUR HAD COME"

Up to this point, Jesus had a unique protection because His hour had not yet come. In close to 24 hours, Jesus would hang on the cross. Jesus "loved them to the end."

- He used these hours to serve and prepare His disciples. **How do we use our time? Do we "live our best life" or is it a life for Him?**

JUDAS' HEART

Judas is a reminder of a society in rebellion against God. Jesus' treatment also demonstrates God's grace and compassion with that society.

- Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him and He gave Judas every opportunity to repent.
- **Do we abuse God's grace or do we live a life of daily repentance?**

SERVANTHOOD

Jesus did something that shocked everyone. He began to wash the disciples' feet, the job of the lowest servant in the household.

- Jesus knew how His disciples would act, yet He loved them. Jesus knew how we would live, yet He died for us. **Do we love and serve people in this way?**

"YOU WILL NEVER WASH MY FEET."

Peter objects and Jesus says, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me."

- Having a relationship with Jesus begins simply with **receiving something from Him, not achieving something ourselves.**
- **Pride will lead many to say, "You will never wash my feet."**

"ONE WHO HAS BATHED..."

When we first come to Jesus, we're bathed; we're clean all over (justification by faith, salvation).

- But as we walk through life, Jesus knows our feet will be defiled, and we need ongoing washing (confession and repentance).
- **When sin stains our feet, do we repent or do we continue walking in the mess?**

AN EXAMPLE (JOHN 13:12-17)

TEACHER AND LORD

The disciples called Jesus Teacher and Lord. Jesus reminds them of this because they are to follow His example and allow Jesus to be Lord of their lives.

- **If we call Jesus our Lord, then life is no longer about us.** It's about Him, and we are to follow His example.

"I HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXAMPLE..."

Jesus commanded them (and us) to show the same humble, sacrificial love to one another.

Jesus' example should mark our **attitude and action.**

- Is this how we love one another? There is a **big difference between saying we love people and actually loving people.**

"A SERVANT IS NOT GREATER THAN HIS MASTER"

If Jesus humbly served in this way, it is even more appropriate for His servants to do the same. **"I don't know if I can..." needs to be checked with what Jesus has done for us.**

- When we serve God and serve others, "we will be blessed" (v. 17). **Serve others without expecting anything in return.**

NIGHT (JOHN 13:18-30)

PART OF GOD'S PLAN

Judas' betrayal was part of God's sovereign plan: "the Scripture must be fulfilled" (v. 18). Jesus predicted this without labeling Judas.

- Have we ever had a "close friend" betray us? **Be encouraged: Jesus can empathize, and we can go to Him for help** (Hebrews 2:18).

TROUBLED IN HIS SPIRIT

Jesus loved Judas, and was troubled for Judas' sake, much more than His own. Jesus is troubled in His spirit for our sake, too!

- The ramifications of sin troubles Jesus. **It should break our hearts as Christians when we see people headed toward destruction.**

"LORD, WHO IS IT?"

Peter's question to John may have been prompted by a desire to stop the betrayal.

- Jesus giving the dipped bread to Judas showed the height of love for His enemies.
- Jesus shows that He was in control of these events. **Nothing surprises Jesus.**

"SATAN ENTERED HIM"

Judas knew that Jesus knew (Matthew 26), and he was still loved by Jesus in this moment. But he shut his heart and chose evil instead.

- **We need to be careful when we say no to Jesus and yes to evil. If we continue to say yes to evil, there may come a time when we can't say yes to Jesus.**

AND IT WAS NIGHT

After receiving the piece of bread (special honor or an act of love), Judas "immediately left... and it was night" (v. 30).

- Judas had the best example and greatest Teacher, and was still lost. **If we don't fully surrender to Jesus, we can also leave into the night.**

LOVE ONE ANOTHER (JOHN 13:31-38)

GLORY IN HIS DEATH

The glory of God is shown nowhere more intensely than in the cross of Jesus. The world looked at the cross and could only see bad. Jesus knew this was part of God's plan and knew what it would accomplish. The love of Jesus was about to be revealed in a new way.

A NEW COMMANDMENT

We are to love our neighbor as ourselves, but we are to love one another as Christ loved us, and that is far more than we love ourselves. **We will be known as disciples of Jesus, if we love one another.**

- **When the world looks at the church, it should see people "loving one another."**

PETER'S DENIAL PREDICTED

"I will lay down my life for you" is a good commitment and desire. When the pressure hit, Peter denied Jesus.

- We too may have this commitment to die for Jesus. **If we live for Jesus without the Holy Spirit's help, we too will deny Jesus when the pressure hits.**

JUDAS CHOOSES DARKNESS

- Judas saw the light and understood it, but chose the darkness anyway.
- He made a wrong turn somewhere and chose not to repent. **He flirts with darkness and runs into the "night."**
- We have the options to **surrender to Jesus** or **continue to choose evil.**

PETER CHOOSES LIGHT

- Peter denies Jesus three times. He made a wrong turn, but chose the path of **restoration and repentance.**
- Have we made a wrong turn in life? Is the path we're headed toward destruction? **There is a way back to God, and He is gracious and loving to welcome us.**

WHY DO WE FOLLOW JESUS?

- Many people follow Jesus because they want what they think Jesus can give them: health, wealth, happiness, miracles, etc.
- When some realize it involves **suffering, difficulty, and sacrifice**, they may walk away.
- **Are we more in love with what Jesus can give us or do we actually love Him?**

WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET

- We would gladly wash Jesus' feet, but He tells us to wash one another's feet. **We prefer what is most comfortable and popular.**
- What would it look like to wash one another's feet? **Do we look at people as an inconvenience or an opportunity to serve?**
- Following Jesus isn't easy or popular.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

- We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). This love should compel us to love one another.
- **Do we love and serve others for our own sake** or because Christ first loved us?
- We will be known as disciples by our love for one another. **The world is watching.**