

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 4TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

THE HOUR HAS COME (JOHN 13:1-11) THE HOUR HAD COME TO DEPART FROM THIS WORLD

The cross is not mentioned here, but we know what is implied. In close to 24, hours Jesus would be betrayed and nailed to a cross. Jesus loved them **"to the end."** This is a love that led Him to be born as a man and to ultimately be nailed to a cross.

- He willingly laid his life down to give us life (John 10:18).

ALL POWER AND AUTHORITY

Jesus knew that the Father had **"given everything into his hands."** This meant Jesus had the power to stop the agony of the cross and the terror of God's wrath but chose obedience.

- In a greater display of power, **Jesus chose to humble Himself and show the love He has for His disciples while knowing fully what awaits Him.**

SERVANTHOOD AND LOVING LEADERSHIP

This scene with **Jesus washing the disciples' feet is more culturally inappropriate than we might think.**

- It was customary for the lowest servant of the house to wash the feet of the guest as they came into the house for a formal meal like this. **Not only did Jesus wash their feet, but they began their meal with washing.**

THE PROUD DISCIPLES ARE SHOWN TRUE HUMILITY

Luke 22:24 says that the disciples entered the room arguing about who is more important, so one would admit inferiority and wash the other's feet.

- Jesus took the **form of a servant** (Philippians 2:6-7) and showed His disciples what it looked like to **"wrap the apron of humility"** around themselves (1 Peter 5:5).

THE DEEPER MEANING OF CLEANSING

Peter essentially asks Jesus, **"What's going on here?"** and He replies that **they will not fully understand what is happening yet.**

- Jesus, in humility, cleansed the disciples' feet. Though He doesn't wash our feet literally, He did humbly die on the cross to cleanse us and **Jesus has no fellowship with those who have not been cleansed by Him.**

ONE WHO HAS BATHED IS COMPLETELY CLEAN

Jesus communicates the need to be cleansed of the filth of the world (repentance) after our initial cleansing (salvation).

- Sandaled feet would become very dirty from simply walking around, so once a person has bathed, they only need to wash their feet. **There is a need to wash off the dirt we accumulate from walking in this world.**

"NOT ALL OF YOU ARE CLEAN."

The disciples did not grasp Judas' betrayal of Jesus until the scene in the garden when Judas kissed Him on the cheek (Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-50).

- Jesus knew from the beginning that Judas would betray him. **We see the rebellion of the world in Judas and God's grace in Jesus even washing his feet.**

THE EXAMPLE (JOHN 13:12-20)

"WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET"

Jesus is not telling us to practice ceremonial feet washings, though there is nothing wrong with this practice, **we must be ready to figuratively "wash the feet" of our brothers and sisters.**

- **We must humble ourselves** (Philippians 2:3-4) and **work to wash away the dirt and grime that becomes accumulated on the feet of others** (Ephesians 5:26).

"YOU SHOULD DO AS I HAVE DONE FOR YOU"

Love is the great marker of a Christian. Jesus says, **"by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"** (v. 35).

- If their **"Lord and teacher,"** an exalted person, has done these things, how much more should a follower do these things? **We must do for others what He has done for us: Love truthfully and sacrificially!**

WE LOVE IN ACTION

Jesus says, **"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."** It's not enough to know that we must love each other; we must actually show love to each other.

- **We cannot say we love someone without any action to back up that claim. "Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and truth"** (1 John 3:18).

"THE SCRIPTURE MUST BE FULFILLED..."

To eat someone's bread and then to lift your heel meant to take someone's hospitality, then cause your host a great fall. It would have been an extreme act of cruelty and betrayal.

- Jesus said these things so that when they happened, they would believe what He said, **"I am he."** **Jesus was not taken by surprise but was in complete control of these events.**

BETRAYAL PREDICTED (JOHN 13:21-30)

"TRULY I TELL YOU..."

Jesus was troubled in His spirit because despite knowing that Judas would betray Him, He cared for Judas' and what sin would lead him to do.

- Jesus did not want any confusion about what He meant when He said, **"the Scripture must be fulfilled."** Quoting Psalm 41:9, Jesus was plain in that **one of the disciples would betray Him.**

WHO COULD IT BE?

This declaration from Jesus led the disciples to try to figure out who Jesus was talking about.

- John, the author, "the one Jesus loved," was beside Jesus, so Peter tried to get him to find out who it was that would betray Jesus. He told John, **"He's the one I give the piece of bread to after I dipped it."**

WHEAT AND TARES

Though Jesus gave an indication as to whom the betrayer would be, the disciples were unaware of the evil that had entered Judas.

- As far as the disciples knew, Judas was as much a follower of Jesus as any of them. We cannot judge based on outward appearance because **even a person who seems close to the Lord may be lost.**

THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

Though Jesus used the bread as an indicator to who would betray Him, culturally, this would have been a high honor, equal to a toast.

- We don't know if this was a final plea from Jesus to get Judas to repent, as some have claimed. What we do see is **the example of Christ, to love our enemies** (Luke 6:27-28).

A NEW COMMAND (JOHN 13:31-38)

BRINGING GLORY TO THE FATHER

John uses multiple forms of the word "glory" five times in two verses. He does this deliberately to show **that the cross and the resurrection were united in God's redemptive plan for humanity.**

- **Jesus considered all events,** including His betrayal by a friend and being handed over by piers to be beaten and crucified, **to be His glorification.**

MORE CONFUSION FOR THE DISCIPLES

Jesus told His disciples the same thing He had told the Jews previously. He said, **"Where I am going, you cannot come."**

- The disciples had given everything to follow Jesus. They thought they would hold the highest positions of authority when Jesus overthrew Rome. Now **He tells them that He is leaving, and they cannot come.**

A NEW COMMAND

In Greek, the phrase used implies a **"freshness, the opposite of worn out."**

- It is not so much a new command as it is presented in a new fresh way. The old way says, **"Love your neighbor as yourself,"** whereas the new way says, **"Love your neighbor better than yourself."** Then, the new way goes even further and says, **"Love your enemy."**

"JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU..."

This way of love was not only commanded by Jesus, but He also exemplified it.

- As an example, the extent to which Jesus loved set Him apart. Then He says that it is this new and radical love that will set us apart from the world. **The way we love is the great identifier of us being Christ followers above everything else.**

"WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"

Peter interjects and wants to know where Jesus is going that he can't follow. Jesus, talking about Peter's death, tells him **that one day he will follow Him.**

- Peter, out of emotion, tells Jesus he would follow Him anywhere and is quickly humbled when **Jesus tells him that he will deny Him three times very soon.**

LOVE GOD, LOVE ONE ANOTHER!

- **How are you loving God with your heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37)?**
- **How are you loving your neighbor?** The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) shows us how we are to love our neighbor.
- **What is that the world would say is the biggest identifier about us being followers of Jesus?**