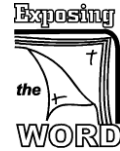




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## 31- The Humble Servant     *John 13:1-17*

We move into a section in chapter 13-17 of John that is a very personal time with His disciples. He will teach them in a private setting for the next chapters with comprise only one night of time.

### I- The Upper Room:

The scene we have before us is on that is set in the upper room when Jesus has gathered with His disciples to observe the Passover.

John does not give us any of the details of how the room was selected. This is left to synopsis gospels. Matthew in *Matthew 26:17-20* NASB says, *Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" 18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is near; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My disciples."'" 19 The disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. 20 Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples.*

Mark also gives details in Mark 14 and Luke in Luke 22.

### II- The Humble Servant:

John's purpose is not to provide such details only the details of the humble servant Christ portrays for us here. John gives us the intimate details of the last few hours of our Lord's life and His teachings. He introduces this with *Joh 13:1* *Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved*

*his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*

This section may be one of greatest glimpses into the loving caring and compassionate character of Christ that is found anywhere. The NIV says it this way, *Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.*

The way Jesus showed His love here was as a servant. Jesus stated more than on time with words like, *Mat 20:28* *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.* The NASB says, *... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

Christ came to be a servant to mankind by giving His life for us and to become our Savior.

### III- Foreknowledge of Betrayal:

The whole of His earthly ministry years, a total of about three, had been spend with a select group of men at the core. One of those would betray Him.

*John 13:2* *And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; 3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;*

Jesus had predicted this in *Joh 6:70-71* *Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? 71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.*

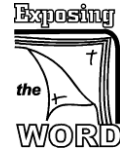
Jesus had foreknowledge of the betrayal. As a matter of fact He would orchestrate



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events during the next few minutes of time that pointed out that Judas was the betrayer. (see *John 13:18-30*)

#### IV- Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

In the times of the apostles most men wore sandals and walked on dusty roads and paths. It was a custom of the day and an expected courtesy for someone who came to your house to have their feet washed. This was usually done by the lowest servants.

*John 13: 4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. 5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.*

This took place during the time of the observation of the Passover. During the Passover meal there were a couple of places where hand washing took place. One of those was when everyone would wash their hand while another was while only the head of the family or group would wash his. It was at this first hand washing when only the host would wash that Jesus took the towel and began to wash the feet of His disciples.

The greatest implication of this that screams into my heart is the lesson of humble servant hood. His action contrast vividly with the disciples that had become self seeking. We see this evidenced in *Mark 9:33-34 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? 34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.*

And again in *Matthew 20:20-24 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. 21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She*

*saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. 22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. 23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father. 24 And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.*

So now here was Jesus, whom the believed to be the Messiah and God's Son is humbly washing their feet.

#### V- Discussion with Peter:

Peter, the one who often spoke without thinking, tells Jesus that he could not allow Him to wash his feet.

*John 13:6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?* Peter asks a question of the Lord. *Barnes Notes* says,

Every word here is emphatic. Dost thou - the Son of God, the Messiah - perform the humble office of a servant - toward me, a sinner? This was an expression of Peter's humility, of his reverence for Jesus, and also a refusal to allow him to do it. It is possible, though not certain from the text, that he came to Simon Peter first.

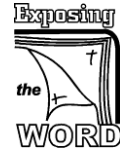
Jesus tells him that he would not understand it now but it would become plain to him later. *John 13:7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. 8*



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*Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.*

Peter refused to allow him to wash his feet. Christ makes a statement that have a much deeper meaning. If Christ is not allowed to clean us then we will remain unclean. He is talking about spiritual cleaning.

Once Christ says this then Peter wants his hands and head washed. *John 13: 9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.* Again speaking of spiritual cleansing that comes only from Christ He says to Peter in *John 13:10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. 11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.*

He points out a fact of spiritual cleansing. When we are saved we are cleansed completely. Titus says it this way, *Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*

This does not mean that a saved man never sins again. All do. Therefore we only need to have the parts that are tainted by the world day by day to be cleansed.

We also see that Christ knew that one of these men who sat with Him at the table was not cleansed by faith.

## VI- Christ Explains the Example:

There are some churches that feel this is one of three church ordinances, the other two being the Lord's Supper and Baptism.

*John 13:12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and*

*was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? 13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.*

So what was he teaching us? Was he teaching us to get out the pan and water and wash feet?

First let me say there is nothing wrong with doing so. We all could use the lesson of humility that comes from it. The hardest part for many is not washing the feet of someone else but submitting to having theirs washed.

Food washing, while practiced as an act of hospitality, was never practiced by the early church as an ordinance.

As we have pointed out the washing of feet was usually done by the lowest slave or servant and the washing of the feet of the disciples by Jesus taught humility and sacrificial servant hood. How long has it been since you served someone not for the glory but simply because you love the Lord Jesus? *Matthew 23:11-12 says, But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*

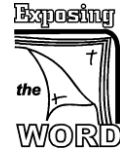
The second lesson as we have stated is that of cleansing. We must be washed by the Master. He came to make us clean by His sacrifice. He accomplishes this by the washing of our sins by the blood of the cross that making us pure. He who came as a humble Servant that you and I may be children of the King.



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## 32- Loves Great Lessons *John 13:1*

In the life of Christ we have what is unquestionable the greatest display of love possible. Pure love, unconditional love, sacrificial love that has often been said to be encapsulated in the cross. This certainly is the peak of the love that Christ had for mankind but within the context of His life there are many times this love comes shining through like a bright beam of sunlight that somehow escapes the dark clouds of a dangerous storm. I have entitled this loves great lessons.

We need to return to a single verse within the context of our last session. It tells us in *Joh 13:1* *Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*

Now it is obvious that Jesus had a great affection and love for His disciples. He loved them to the end, the end here being the end of His earthly life as a man.

Let's take a look at these love lessons. Loves lessons learned from the One of which it is said, "*God is love.*" The One we can look at and say, "that is what love looks like."

### **I- Love Cannot Be Extinguish by Evil:**

Imagine the scene, Jesus has the towel and is washing the feet of the disciples. He comes to Judas, the one He knew would betray Him. What would He do to the one who was going to stab Him in the back? He bowed and washed the feet of Judas and dried them without any hostility what so ever. My, my what love. The evil that Judas had in his heart and that Christ knew about did not extinguish the love Christ had for

him. I am glad because of the fact that I too was an enemies of God.

*Rom 5:10* *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

One great teaching on the subject of loving our enemies came from the lips of the Lord Jesus in *Matthew 5:44-48* *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

The word here for perfect means complete. He is talking about love and we should strive to love as God which is loving our enemies. When we strive to be like Jesus we must attempt to allow God to not extinguish the love we have for those who are evil to us and around us. By the way Christ died for the meanest man alive today.

### **II- Love Never Claims Place of Superiority:**

*Joh 13:3* *Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God.* Based on this we know that Jesus was well aware in His human flesh that all things were in His hands. He knew of His