

Serve Like Jesus

John 13:1-9;12-17

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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!"

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. (NIV)

Transition

- Last week I said some things at the beginning of the sermon that might have confused you.
- I said that I would love for the testimony of this church to be "those people are humble"
- Then I said that wasn't necessarily our goal.

If I could start over last week this is what it would sound like.

- The reason I am talking about it is that I want to be humble and to see this church marked by humility.

Humility That God Sees

- I know that the best and humblest person who has walked the earth was tortured to death because he was accused of blasphemous arrogance.

John 5:18

“This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him because . . . he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God”

Conclusion

- So, I don't expect his followers will ever be able to avoid the accusation of arrogance.
- If you are the humblest outspoken witness for Jesus as the only way to God, you will be accused of arrogance.
- Avoiding that is not my goal.
- What I want to avoid is the reality of pride.
- I want there to be real humility in me, and in this staff, and the leaders and all of us.
- The kind of humility that God sees and that spiritually discerning people see, even if the world doesn't see it.

Recap last week

- This is our goal.
- Our goal is to have genuine godly humility.
- A humility that is seen first by God and then by those who follow Jesus – those who can recognize genuine humility.
- From there we model the example we are given.
- Asking for God to help us the whole time.
- If he does not help us in this endeavor, we will completely fail.
- In our attempts at humility – If we ever get to the point where we are not desperately dependent upon HIM we will fail and fail miserably.
- However, when we fall on his grace and mercy and walk out repentance he comes in his POWER and enables us to do what we cannot do on our own.
- We NEED that POWER. We NEED HIS POWER.
- So together we say LORD HAVE MERCY and POUR OUT YOUR POWER ON US!

John 13 is the MODEL - What is the Model here?

Jesus gives us an illustrated sermon on pride killing humility.

The kind of humility that God wants

The king of humility that shows the world JESUS!

Love, serve, surrender, blessed.

I. Jesus loves us to the end

Vs.1

¹It 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.

A. It was just before Passover Festival

What did good Jewish people do just before Passover Festival?

- They remembered.
- They observed.
- They ate the Passover meal.

B. Jesus was aware he would be crucified

1. He would physically leave this world
2. He would “go to the Father”
3. He is the Passover Lamb.
 - a. His sacrifice and his blood would be shed.
 - b. He would take upon himself the wrath of God.
 - c. His sinless the only acceptable sacrifice.

God himself doing for us what no one else could do.

The Son taking the Father’s wrath in our place.

C. Jesus loved “his own” who were in the world – who was this referring too?

1. Jesus “loved them to the end” – He followed through to the very end.
2. He did what he was supposed to do and he did every loving act that he was sent to do.
3. He loved them to the end.

Who is John talking about?

Who did he love “to the end?”

All the rest of the Gospel of John has the banner of verse 1 flying high and wonderful over it.

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.

- D. So as Jesus's public ministry closes, and John turns now to the last day before Jesus dies, he looks back and says: in all his ministry, Jesus has been showing peculiar, revealing, saving, forgiving, patient, confirming, guiding love to his own.

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.

1. He's not denying that Jesus loved the world – John 3:16
2. But John is talking here about his unique and special love for his people — like a husband has a unique love for his wife.

“Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.”

3. Everything we see him doing new in chapter 13 is part of this love.
4. And if you belong to Jesus, feel everything he says and does here as said to you and done for you in a very intentional, personal, effective way.

Illustration

- He is here for you today.
- If you are a follower of Jesus, then know he is loving you to the END.
- If you are not a follow of Jesus then my hope is that as I talk this morning your heart would be shifted and you would lean on Jesus as your only hope of salvation.

Application

- Jesus wants you to feel it personally.
- Make it personal
- The rest of the sermon today is “Jesus loving you to the end”

II. Jesus is our servant leader

John 13:2-5

²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

A. Unpack text

Vs. 2

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

1. The evening meal was happening – this would be known as the “last supper”
2. This evening meal was the Passover celebration they would observe together
3. The devil had prompted Judas to betray Jesus.
4. Judas was the son of Simon Iscariot.
5. This betrayal had already been “prompted”
6. This betrayal was in the midst of happening.
7. Judas had already decided to betray Jesus and Judas was sitting at the Passover meal with Jesus.
8. Jesus knew Judas was a betrayer and allowed him to stay.
9. Jesus would even wash the feet of Judas.

Vs. 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;

- B. Jesus knew something. This truth was from the “Father” = heavenly Father.
- C. So let’s watch Jesus make this point with an acted-out lesson.
 1. In verses 2–3, John describes how high Jesus is.
 2. And the higher one is, it is often the case the more embattled one is.
 3. That’s the case here.

During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

- D. This point here is that Jesus has the highest rank imaginable.

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

Opposed by the god of this world. So the point is: Jesus is very high. His rank is supremely high.

1. Jesus was aware that he had divine power given to him by the “Father God”
2. All things had been put under his power.
3. What is “all things” – important to know that “all things” means ALL THINGS
4. Like everything was under his power.

5. Jesus was the supreme ruler of the universe.

Jesus had come “from God” = he was divine = not created but “from” Important distinction here.

To come “from God” means from his essence??? The same material. The same.

6. He was returning to God meaning He would leave earth and the confines of his earthly body and he would return to seat at the “right hand” of the Father – full authority.

Vs. 4

⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

- E. Jesus got up
 1. **Most likely he sitting on the ground or on some type of low lying furniture or cushion.**
 2. He took initiative to become the lowest.
 3. **He lead the way.**
 4. **No one else was going to do it.**

Jesus did what no one else would do.

Jesus did what no one else could do.

5. He was sitting with all of the others.
 1. He took off his outer clothing – his robe.
 2. He wrapped a towel around his waist – he is putting on a towel that he would wipe feet dry with.

So he took of any clothing that identified him as a rabbi and he put on clothing of a servant.

3. The towel was wrapped around his waist.

Vs. 5

⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

- F. Jesus poured water into a basin.
 1. Where did the basin come from. Common to the house?
 2. He began to wash disciples feet. He washed and he dried them.

3. He did the whole thing.
4. Foot washing was a common thing.
5. But what was uncommon about this was that Jesus did it.
6. Jesus was the highest ranking in the room.
7. He was culturally the most unlikely to wash feet.
8. Normally the lowest ranking person washed feet.
9. They all looked around waiting for the lowest ranking to fess up and wash feet but Jesus beat them to the punch.
10. This was a HUGE cultural shock.

Illustration

Booker T. Washington, the renowned African American educator, was an outstanding example humility.

Shortly after he took over the presidency of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, he was walking in an exclusive section of town when he was stopped by a wealthy white woman.

Not knowing the famous Mr. Washington by sight, she asked if he would like to earn a few dollars by chopping wood for her.

Because he had no pressing business at the moment, Professor Washington smiled, rolled up his sleeves, and proceeded to do the humble chore she had requested.

When he was finished, he carried the logs into the house and stacked them by the fireplace. A little girl recognized him and later revealed his identity to the lady.

The next morning the embarrassed woman went to see Mr. Washington in his office at the Institute and apologized profusely.

"It's perfectly all right, Madam," he replied.

"Occasionally I enjoy a little manual labor.

Besides, it's always a delight to do something for a friend."

She shook his hand warmly and assured him that his meek and gracious attitude had endeared him and his work to her heart.

Not long afterward she showed her admiration by persuading some wealthy acquaintances to join her in donating thousands of dollars to the Tuskegee Institute.

Application

- Jesus the servant leader is our example.
- Jesus taking on the role of a servant.
- This is our high calling.
- In the Kingdom if you are called to go low.
- Your high calling is to go low.
- To become a servant.
- **Go LOW!**

Pastors, go low. Elders, go low.
 Heads of households, go low. Small group leaders, go low.
 Presidents of companies, owners, supervisors, managers, go low.
 Mom and dad, go low. Big brothers and sisters, go low.
 "A" students, go low. Good athletes, go low.
 Pretty teenage girls, go low to serve.

Christian, go low to represent your Savior, to know his joy, and because you are completely clean.

III. Following Jesus requires surrender

John 13:6-8

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."

- A. There he is again. You usually don't have to wonder what Peter is thinking.
 1. Peter argues with Jesus - "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."
 2. Peter argues with Jesus.
 3. I'm not going to let you do this for me.
 4. You will not be my servant.
 5. You will not wash my feet.
 6. What you are doing is servant work.
 7. What you are doing is inappropriate.
 8. What you are doing is out of order and I will not have any of it.
 9. Peter tries to correct Jesus.

- B. Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."
 1. Jesus doesn't demand that Peter allow it.
 2. Jesus wants to wash Peter's feet but he does not demand it.
 3. Then Jesus tells Peter that if Peter does not allow it then he will not be able to associate with Jesus.
 - a. You want on the inside.
 - b. You want a prominent role in the Kingdom?
 - c. Here is how that works.
 - d. Peter humble yourself and allow me to get up close to you and serve you.
 - e. I will do the lowest, humblest, work.

- C. Peter if you don't repent of your ways and allow me to wash you then you will be cut off.
1. This is a harsh response.
 2. Jesus is saying in my Kingdom – I call the shots
 3. If you want anything to do with me then you must allow me to wash you.
 4. If you don't then you will be cut off completely.

John 13:9

⁹“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!” Peter submits and says well if that is how this works then wash all of me.

Illustration

- The most important thing to me is that I want to be with you.
- I want to be associated with you.
- I want to be wherever you are.
- I want to follow wherever you go.
- I will allow you to do whatever you want to do to me.
- I completely submit to you and your work in my life.

John 13:9-11

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 every one was clean.

IV. I'm going to be blessed

John 13:12-17

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.**

Vs. 12

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.

Jesus washed all of their feet.

Jesus returns to his seat

Not any other comments were recorded. Either nothing significant was said or nothing was said at all.

Jesus ask them a question – Do you understand what I have done for you?

I want you to think about this.

I want you to know something about what just happened.

However, John does not record an answer from the

Vs. 13-14

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.

Jesus agrees that he is their “Teacher” and “Lord” – note both of those words are capitalized.

I am your greatest teacher.

I am your superior – Lord.

By me washing your feet –

1. You have an example on how you should view and serve one another.
2. You are empowered to view and serve one another with my authority.
3. You are washed by me and now you are empowered, anointed to wash one another’s feet – serve one another.
4. You have received the title of servant.

¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Jesus says here is the example. Me washing your feet is the example.

You should emulate my example.

Do what 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.

Jesus uses the two words that are key to understanding this act.

Servant and master.

He tells them that no servant is greater than his master.

Question – who is the servant here and who is the master here?

Jesus is the master - Jesus is the servant.

If the master took on the role of a servant how much more should we.

What do masters do? – they are in authority over, they rule over.

What do servants do? – they server their masters, they submit to their masters.

Jesus then uses another word – messenger –

No messenger is greater than the one who sent him.

Jesus is the messenger sent from the Father
We are sent by Jesus to take this message to the world.

¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus says that they know these things.

You now know them and since you know them –

Do them and you will be blessed.

The master tells his servants that if we become a servant like HIM then he will bless us.

Word for blessed

Conclusion

Pastors, go low. Elders, go low. Heads of households, go low. Small group leaders, go low. Presidents of companies, owners, supervisors, managers, go low. Mom and dad, go low. Big brothers and sisters, go low. “A” students, go low. Good athletes, go low. Pretty teenage girls, go low to serve. Christian, go low to represent your Savior, to know his joy, and because you are completely clean.