

## **Loving to the End**

### **John 13:1-17**

**The Purpose:** Show the full extent of his love

One of the inescapable truths of the New Testament is that followers of Christ are called into fellowship with each other, and are to demonstrate their love for each other through acts of service. In this passage, Jesus sets the example.

**The Context:** Jesus knew...

- Time had come for him to leave this world
- Peter would deny him
- Judas would betray him
- That the Father had put all things under his power
- That he had come from God and was returning to God

Knowing all these things, Jesus' first priority was to wash his disciples feet. Does that seem as strange to you as it does to me? I wonder, If I knew my time had come, Peter was about to deny me, Judas would betray me, and I had all power, what would be my first priority? What would be yours?

Jesus was most anxious to show his disciples the extent of his love, and to teach his disciples to love one another. Jesus loved to the utmost, and to the end.

**The Action:** Jesus washed the disciples feet

- Got up from the meal
- Took off his outer garment
- Poured water into a basin
- Washed his disciples feet
- Dried their feet with the towel that was wrapped around him

This is not essentially an act of humility, but an act of love. Love produces humility. Humility is a product of love. It's not humility that makes us great, but great love that makes us humble. Followers of Jesus do not aspire to be great, but to love and to serve.

**The Discussion:** What does it mean to be washed by Jesus?

Peter #1: Those who cannot accept cleansing from Jesus because they do not feel worthy. "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" (Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet because he did not feel worthy. None of us are worthy, and that is exactly why we need the cleansing Jesus offers).

Peter #2: Those who do not understand the grace they have received from Jesus, and continue to ask Jesus to wash them head to toe.

Peter #3: Those who have been washed head to toe, but still need daily cleansing (foot washing).

If Jesus doesn't wash out feet, we live with a dirty conscience. Some people think they have a clear conscience, when what they really have is a fuzzy memory. We all sin, and we need that daily cleansing from the defilement of sin. (I John 1:9). The issue here is not salvation, but fellowship with Christ.

Judas: Those who are not clean, and refuse to allow Jesus to wash them. They choose sin rather than Jesus. "Not every one of you is clean" (Judas chose not to allow Jesus to wash him because he wanted money more than he wanted God).

**The Application:** Christ's followers should show the full extent of their love by the service they render to each other.

- Love is shown by service. By serving each other, we manifest the extent of our love for each other. (The problem of a market driven culture).
- The cleansing of the disciples feet is symbolic of the service Jesus rendered on the cross so that we might be cleansed from sin. (Passover).
- Those who love through service will be blessed (the word in Greek is happy).

### **Personal Meditation**

Do I have trouble accepting the service that Jesus and the Holy Spirit is offering me? Is this a serious problem?

How do I demonstrate my love for others? What evidence is there that serving others is a high priority to me?

What hinders me from serving others? How do I overcome what hinders?