

Journey Through the New Testament

John 12 – 16

Series: The Resurrection and the Life ***“Promise of the Holy Spirit”***

4-28-19

Introduction

In Matthew, Mark, and Luke (the synoptic Gospels,) Jesus warned the disciples several times that he would be betrayed, would die and rise on the third day. In John’s Gospel, Jesus warned them of his coming death, but also offered comfort and prayer to prepare them. Then Jesus demonstrated “the full extent of his love” (John 13:15) by washing their feet, a humbling and powerful example of loving service. Everything about Jesus demonstrated the extravagant, sacrificial nature of his love and grace. As his followers, we are called to love with the same servant heart in order to demonstrate the love of Christ to others.

Bible Study John 13:1-11 (CEB)

What?

1. What is the setting in John 13:1?
2. What did Jesus do that was so astounding to the disciples? (v. 5)
3. What was Peter’s response? (v. 8)
4. What was so outrageous about Jesus washing the feet of the disciples?

John 13:12-17

So What?

1. So, why do you think Jesus chose this setting to wash their feet?
2. So, what was Jesus teaching and demonstrating for the disciples when he washed their feet? (v. 9-17)

Lesson Notes: Washing guest’s dusty feet was the job of a servant, not the host. Refer to Philippians 2:6-8 Jesus as our example. Jesus’ conversation with Peter revealed one level of meaning of the foot washing. It symbolized cleansing by Jesus, transformation made possible through his death, and later symbolized in baptism. A second lesson of the foot washing demonstrated humble service. As teacher and master, the disciples were to imitate and obey Jesus. Jesus explained

that following and obeying him meant self-giving, loving service after his example. (Commentary, *Wesley Study Bible*)

Now What?

1. Discuss our culture's view of leadership, power, and authority?
2. Why might people in our day be as surprised as Peter to see someone in authority doing a humble, servant task?
3. In what way is Jesus' approach of servant leadership a radical model?
4. "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." (John 13:17) Summarize what "these things" means.
5. As a disciple in our time, now that you know these things, how can you do them? –at work? at home? in the community? Be specific.
6. In what way is this first a matter of attitude then action?
7. What blessings come by serving as Jesus served? Give examples from your own experience.

Our Companion, the Spirit of Truth John 14:25-31

The Father promises to send the Spirit to teach, remind, and empower the disciples (then and now) to keep the commandments that Jesus taught and to live as Jesus in this world.

Love is such an easy word to say and such a hard thing to do. Ultimately love shows itself not by declaration of affection but by the service we render to the one we profess to love especially service that inconveniences us or that calls for sacrifice. What is true in expressions of human love is equally true of our love for God. Jesus put the matter quite simply we love him, we will keep his commandments. John 14:15 (Commentary, *Wesley Study Bible*)

Closing Prayer

O Lord, your extravagant example of service and sacrifice are humbling and sometimes hard to grasp. By your Spirit, give us grace to follow in your footsteps; strength to risk a radical way of living in service to you and to others. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.