

John 13

Book of John Familiar passage where Jesus washes the feet of the disciples:

- John 12 recap:
 - Called to sacrifice,
 - For they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.
 - We need to see Jesus in order to overcome that
 - How do we see him?
 - Word of God
 - Prayer
 - The body (His Church)
 - Suffering
- John 13 Context
 - This is the final week of Jesus's life before the crucifixion- he has had a jammed pack Week - here is a brief recap and look forward
 - Dinner with Lazarus and friends (jews leaders plot to kill)
 - Triumphal entry (Jewish leaders plot to kill)
 - Cleansing of the temple and teaches there with authority (jewish leaders plot to kill)
 - He is now hours from his arrest, "trial", crucifixion
 - Last supper
 - Matt, Mark, Luke all focus on the wine and bread and those interactions John focuses on a different event
 - Remember the purpose of John
 - "That you may believe Jesus is the Christ and that by believing you may have life in his name" John 20:31
 - John 13 and John 17 bookends of a major teaching
 - Parable/drama of foot wash and new command
 - 14-16 promise of the Holy Spirit as the
 - power to walk in His command (be transformed into Christ's likeness)
 - which is achieved by abiding (prayer, study of his word, communion with other believers)
 - 17 Jesus will pray and intercede as the one true high priest for all believers
- Passage: **JOHN 13: 1-17**
 - **13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved**

his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it 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 had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet,^[a] but is completely clean. And you^[b] are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

- ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant^[c] is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

- Prayer
- Looking for 4 main ideas this morning in this passage...
 - Who he is...
 - Why he came
 - How he reigns...
 - Where He is...
- Who he is...
 - Vs 1: Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.
 - Characterized by love (the ultimate expression of which will be the cross) "God demonstrated his love for us..." Romans 5:8 "Greater

love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends”john 15:17

- **-Vs3: Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God**
 - In this vs we see
 - His *authority* – ‘that the Father had given all things into his hands other translations say “put all things under his power’.
 - His *identity* – ‘that he had come from God’.
 - His *destiny* – ‘that he was returning to God’.
- **Vs 13: “You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am”**
 - Teacher- one with greater knowledge and a desire to impart it
 - He seeks to show us the truth of our design
 - Lord- a person or deity who has authority, control, or power over others, acting like a master, a chief, or a ruler.
 - “He teaches as one with Authority”
 - He clearly claims to be God
 - **Every Christian is a pupil in the school of Jesus Christ. We sit at the feet of our Master. We want to bring our minds and our wills, our beliefs and our standards, under his yoke. In the Upper Room he said to the apostles: “You call me ‘Teacher” and ‘Lord’, and rightly so, for that is what I am.” That is, “Teacher” and “Lord” were no mere courtesy titles; they bore witness to a reality. Jesus Christ is our Teacher to instruct us and our Lord to command us. -Authentic Christianity, John Stott**

These vs are obvious statements of who he is, there are lots of inferences and qualities that we can pull out but let’s leave it at that for now...

- Why He came..He came to wash you...
 - ‘I venture to say that we never understand Jesus Christ and His work until we recognize this as its prominent purpose, to cleanse us from sin. An inadequate conception of what we need – shallow, superficial views of the gravity and universality, and obstinacy of, the fact of sin – is an impenetrable veil between us and all real understanding of Jesus Christ. There is no adequate motive for such an astounding fact as the incarnation and sacrifice of the Son of God except the purpose of redeeming the world. If you do not believe that you – you, individually, and all of us, your brethren – need to be cleansed, you will find it hard to believe in the divinity and atonement of Jesus Christ. **If you have been down into the depths of your own heart and found out what tremendous, diabolic power your own evil nature and sin have upon you, then you will not be content with anything less than the incarnate God, who stoops from heaven to bear the burden of your**

sin and to take it all away. If you want to understand why He laid aside His garments and took the servile form of our manhood, the appeal of man's sin to His love and the answer of His divine condescension are the only explanation.' (**Alexander Maclaren**)

- To put it bluntly, if you have not had an honest look at your heart and what you are capable of, then the idea of a savior will seem ridiculous and offensive, not to mention utterly repulsive that a Father would pour out his wrath on his son.
- But if you have had the guts to look at your heart, you will realize that is the **ONLY** solution
 - The gulf is too wide, the holiness too unattainable,
 - Otherwise you are hoping that "you not that bad and God's not that mad" completely missing the true nature of both what a loving God we have and by extension how Holy and just a God we have.
- Cultural context of footwashing
 - Why needed
 - Bathed before you went somewhere
 - Feet dirty when arrival
 - Who did it
 - Group of disciples together, no servants
 - Arguing about who is the greatest
 - Never occurs to them that one of them should wash the others feet
 - Jesus fully aware of who he is (vs 3 knowing that the father had given all things into his hands and he had come from the father and was going back to the father) did what they could not imagine doing
 - This would be very awkward...
 - For us..
 - For them..Washing part less so, but the station of slave that Jesus assumes would make it more so
 - Based on who he is, Lord, Teacher, The Christ
 - Peter Reacts...
 - Unless I wash you...you have No Part in me
 - Typical Peter.."Then not only my feet" Now Peter wants a whole bath
 - Christ Explains
 - Bath-First Come to Christ, we are washed
 - justification, regeneration
 - =Baptism (Symbol)
 - John 15:3 **Already you are clean because of the word I have spoken to you**

- Titus 3:5-**he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit**
- Continue in the Christian life
 - Pick up dirt as we walk through world
 - Now we just need the footwash of daily forgiveness and abiding in Christ
 - Washed by the word!

Who he is: one with all power and authority, Why he came: to wash you that you may have part in him (fellowship)

- How He reigns: Here we see demonstrated the concept of the Servant King
 - Other gospels tell that the Disciples were fighting for position of importance just before this
 - The way of the world those with authority, or power use it to get what they want
 - Power- used to get identity and make people bend to your will
 - From the school yard bully
 - Government official
 - Manager of the business
 - Rulers of Nations
 - Everyone serves those above them and wants to be served by those below them. We climb and claw our way to the top using others as ladders and step stools
 - Top Down power
 - **"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant. Matthew 20:26**
 - Upside down kingdom
 - Blessed are the poor
 - Blessed are the humble
 - First will be last last will be first
 - King who is a servant to all
 - The king and creator of all is here to seek and save the lost..
 - " For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45
 - When your identity is secure that the Creator of the universe came to find you and to redeem you so that you could have a part in him, fellowship with him, you don't need to push others down to appear great. You no

longer care about the approval of man because it doesn't matter compared to this.

Phillipians 2:5-11 is probably the best way to break this parable in the form of a drama down...

- **"...Christ Jesus,^a ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,^b ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,^c being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**
 - Rose from Supper == Rose from Heavenly Throne
 - Laid aside his outer garment == Emptied himself laid his glory aside
 - Placed a towel around his waist (dress of a slave) == Incarnation, took on the likeness of sinful flesh, are who are in the flesh not in bondage - slaves to sin
 - Washed and wiped their feet == Went to the cross washed away the sins of all who will be saved
 - Put back on his outer garment and returned to his seat == ascended in glory, exalted by the Father, all bow to him

Who he is..The Christ with all power and authority,

Why he came... to wash and redeem you

How he reigns...as a servant king laying down his life for his own

Finally:

- Where he is..
 - He is here in his Church:
 - Vs 14-15 **If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.**
 - He has demonstrated love- True love
 - Not feel good emotion
 - But the choice to serve
 - The choice to put others needs above your own
 - Even your enemies

- This leads to the command in **Verse 34 :A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."**
- Practically, should I bring my towel and bucket to each dinner party?
 - We are the hands and feet of Christ, we are to wash one another's feet, be willing to serve even in what our world might consider lowest the way. Not for glory recognition, but to give glory and recognition (they will know you are my disciples by how you love) Not for the praise of men, but in praise to Him who served you.
 - Buying and delivering clothes for a fellow believer in a care center
 - The people in our midst who choose to serve by coming and cleaning the bathrooms and the sanctuary here each week
 - You serve with whatever ability you have
 - Always looking outward fueled through the abiding in Christ
- He is here working in and through the Church you are how many prayers can be answered
- Where else is he?
- When someone speaks of a god or a religion it is most frequently in terms of high and distant. Something to earn or obtain through your labor, effort, "righteousness"
 - High and distant
 - That's true God is high.. Highly exalted the only one worthy of glory
 - He is distant.. We have fallen in Adam so far that we cannot be in his presence as he is too pure, too good, too light
- We see here that though he was and is highly exalted he comes down incredibly near close, he stoops to the lowest level to wash you.
 - We often miss him because he is so near and so close
 - Acts 17 : that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for "In him we live and move and have our being";
 - Romans 10:8 The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart!

- Psalm 145: The LORD is **near** to all who call on him in truth.
 - Psalm 34: The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
 - To Elijah-He comes in a still small whisper
 - Romans 8...**38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age..
 - Just a few verses later in John we see that he is lying back against Jesus resting his head on Jesus's chest (a little weird in our independent culture but normal for close friends in theirs) Just reflect on that amazing fact, the one who formed galaxies allows an uneducated teenage fisherman to rest against him.
 - Where is he?? He is with you, right here right now don't miss him.
- Stott shows us a pattern which is always present in scripture
 - Revelation about himself
 - Promises of Salvation
 - Commands
 - Revelation about himself (who he is)
 - Leads to Worship
 - Adoring preoccupation with the glory of God and awesome he is
 - Promise of Salvation
 - Leads to Trust
 - Restful spirit- delivers you from the ups and downs of life and emotion of the daily walk
 - Commands of behavior empowered by Him
 - Leads to obedience
 - Rescues us from relative truth and sets our feet on the solid rock
- Revelation, Promise and Commands leading to our response of Worship, Trust and Obedience.
 - He reveals who he is-and how he reigns- The king with all authority - Will you worship him?
 - Promises his salvation through why he came -to wash you? Trust him to do that work?

- He commands us as a Servant King to follow his example of how to love others -Giving us the power to Obey by where he is..desiring to abide with us.