



Live Like The King (John 13:1-35)

To “*live like a king*” means to live extravagantly, but that’s NOT what it means to *live like THE King*. Today, we discover the difference, as King Jesus demonstrates what He expects of His followers.

From this point on, Jesus will no longer heal the sick, cast out demons, raise the dead, nor communicate to the crowds. The focus throughout the rest of the writing is Jesus and his love for His disciples (i.e. more than just the 12 men). In chapters 2–12, the words **life** (57 times) and **light** (32 times) over the 12 times **love** is mentioned, but now - in chapters 13–17 - it is reversed. **Love** is used 37 times, far above **life** (6) and **light** (0).¹ And today we see how significant that is.

John 13:1–3 (CSB) ¹ Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, **he loved them to the end.** ² Now when it was time for supper, the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son, to betray him. ³ **Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into his hands**, that he had come from God, and that he was going back to God.

Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands. Jesus had complete control over the whole situation that was about to take place.

If the disciples would have taken a vote on who was the Most Powerful Person in the room, it would have been unanimous. That title belonged to Jesus alone, and that’s what makes His next action SO POWERFUL!

John 13:4–5 ⁴ So he got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around himself. ⁵ Next, he poured water into a basin and **began to wash his disciples’ feet** and to dry them with the towel tied around him.

Jesus is doing no one else was willing to do, the expectation of a servant or slave. Why would the most powerful person in the room stoop to such a low level? This doesn’t seem right and this is why Peter is SO UPSET when Jesus gets to him.

John 13:6–9 ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered him, “What I’m doing you don’t realize now, but **afterward you will understand.**” ⁸ “You will never wash my feet,” Peter said. Jesus replied, “**If I don’t wash you, you have no part with me.**” ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.”

John the Baptist said he wasn’t even worthy to untie Jesus’ sandals, much less wash His feet (John 1:27). How much more unworthy did Peter feel to have the reverse occur! “**You will never wash my feet!**” Why should the King wash the feet of the servant? *It should be the other way around!* But Jesus counters, and Simon Peter gives in, in some what of a comical response: “Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.”

What was true for Simon Peter is true for us. If Jesus doesn’t wash you, you have no part with him. Only those who believe in Jesus, those who **turn from sin** and **turn to Him** are made clean - REALLY CLEAN!

John 13:10–11 ¹⁰ “One who has bathed,” Jesus told him, “doesn’t need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. **You are clean, but not all of you.**” ¹¹ For he knew who would betray him. This is why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

Everyone bathed before coming to the Passover meal, but their journey meant walking dusty roads in sandals, so their feet got dirty. The body was clean, but the feet needed some attention. So too, followers of Jesus who have turned from sin and turned to Jesus, are CLEAN! They simply need some daily attention, direction, & even correction.

There was one there, however, who was NOT CLEAN, one in Jesus’ inner circle **who would betray him**. It wouldn’t be until after Jesus’ death that the apostles would understand that **this servant washing feet with water was a foreshadowing an even greater servant act** as Jesus, the Lamb of God, gives His life to wash away the sins of the world. THAT’S what this foot washing symbolized, the King of creation becoming the lowest servant (see Phil 2:5-8).

¹ Grant R. Osborne, John: Verse by Verse, ed. Jeffrey Reimer et al., Osborne New Testament Commentaries (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018), 315.

John 13:12-17 ¹² When Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer clothing, he reclined again and said to them, "Do you know what I have done for you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, 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 for you. ¹⁶ "Truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, **you are blessed if you do them**.

This doesn't mean we can treat each other however we want to, as long as we have a foot washing session every now and then. We are commanded to serve one another (Rom. 12:10).

★ Washing feet is only mentioned 1 other place in the New Testament, referring to taking care of widows who have been taking care of others in the body of Christ, women who have "*shown hospitality, **washed the saints' feet**, helped the afflicted, and devoted herself to every good work.*" (1 Tim 5:10)

Foot washing was not a regular practice in the early church², as communion & baptism were, but **washing feet was a meaningful metaphor for taking on the role of servant to care for fellow followers of Jesus.**

BIG TRUTH: We most LIVE like the THE KING, when we SERVE like THE KING.

No servant is greater than his master. Humble yourself & serve! This should start in our homes and among our faith family. *Instead of fighting for the throne, Jesus would have His disciples reach for the towel.*

② When is the last time YOU really SERVED another person - especially another follower of Jesus? How might our relationships change if we were trying to out-serve each other by washing feet rather than jockeying for position at the head of the table?

A Friend Betrays the King

John 13:18-21 ¹⁸ "I'm not speaking about all of you; I know those I have chosen. But the Scripture must be fulfilled: **The one who eats my bread has raised his heel against me**. ¹⁹ I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am he. ²⁰ Truly I tell you, whoever receives anyone I send receives me, and the one who receives me receives him who sent me." ²¹ When Jesus had said this, he was troubled in his spirit and testified, "Truly I tell you, **one of you will betray me**."

Jesus is quoting from:

Psalm 41:9 ⁹ Even my friend in whom I trusted, one who ate my bread, has raised his heel against me.

Why would Jesus say that after this intimate moment when He had washed EVERY FOOT in the room? **All were CLEAN...but ONE.** All received Jesus...but ONE. The betrayer was in the room, and whoever it was....Jesus had just washed his feet.

John 13:22-30 ²² The disciples started looking at one another—uncertain which one he was speaking about. ²³ One of his disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining close beside Jesus. ²⁴ Simon Peter motioned to him to find out who it was he was talking about. ²⁵ So he leaned back against Jesus and asked him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus replied, "He's the one I give the piece of bread to after I have dipped it." When he had dipped the bread, he gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot's son. ²⁷ After Judas ate the piece of bread, Satan entered him. So Jesus told him, "What you're doing, do quickly." ²⁸ None of those reclining at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Since Judas kept the money-bag, some thought that Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ After receiving the piece of bread, he immediately left. **And it was night.**

John meant more than just that the sun had gone down. Jesus had warned them that **NIGHT** was coming,

John 9:4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; **night is coming**, when no one can work.

And now NIGHT is here. One of these disciples has fooled all the others. No one but Jesus, John, and Judas knew who the betrayer was at this point. The betrayer is out to complete his wicked task and the clock is ticking.

John 13:31-35 ³¹ When he had left, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Children, I am with you a little while longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so now I tell you: 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

Where is Jesus going? We will find out next week in John 14. Today we close the Scripture with an incredible command, in light of the recent revelation of betrayal. Jesus doesn't want His disciples to pull into their shell so they won't be hurt. Instead, Jesus says...

³⁴ "I give you a new command: **Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.**
³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus expects His followers to love one another like He has. What are some ways that Jesus had loved them? Jesus actually treated them like FAMILY!

- ➡ Jesus spent TIME with them. Jesus encouraged them, taught them, corrected them, and included them in ministry. Jesus FORGAVE them...and Jesus SERVED them.

BIG TRUTH: We most LIVE like the THE KING, when we SERVE like THE KING.

Jesus' example echoed in their minds the rest of their lives. His act of service shouted, "Don't forget this evening." And they NEVER did. Whenever they were tempted to belittle one another & mistreat one another, or we're unwilling to seek or extend forgiveness, their thoughts turned to their KING, disrobing & washing their feet... looking them in the eyes and commanding them to do the same. And later, when they saw what His most sacrificial act, the King crucified for their sins, they had to hear His words once again:

John 13:14-17 ¹⁴ So if I, 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 for you. ¹⁶ "Truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, **you are blessed if you do them.**

So, **What do you do...When you're the most powerful person in the room?**

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To do anything less than serve others is to say we are greater than our master.

- What would happen if we started serving each other LIKE THAT? At home, work, church?
- What if we started living like our King and started serving the people UNDER our authority?
- And what if our watching world, our skeptical neighbors, began to see...that we actually FOLLOW JESUS, and experience real forgiveness, deep joy & real relationships?!

* **Want to talk further?** Please contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon! Or call our **deacons & wives:** Tom & Martha Waddail, Steve & Debbie Bass, Freddy & Joyce Howard, Jere & Darlene Burnette, Alan & Christy Androski, Willy & Melissa Gamalero.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What impacted you most from the teaching today?
2. Did it make you uncomfortable watching Jesus disrobe. If so, why? How do you think it impacting His disciples?
3. **Read John 13:6-10.** Beyond washing feet, which Jesus has not done for you and me, how can one be washed & completely clean? What are some practical ways our 'feet' need some attention throughout the journey? (Share an area of your life God has given attention, direction, or correction.)
4. **Recall today's BIG TRUTH.** What are some reasons that keep us from serving each other like Jesus did? What are some practical ways you can really serve others (our faith family & beyond)?
5. **Read John 13:18-21 & 13:34-35.** Jesus was betrayed by a friend. If that has ever happened to you, why is it so difficult to trust again? What will we miss out on if we don't trust again? Share an example of how you have seen believers "love one another" like Jesus and what impact it made in your life and beyond.
6. What are some practical steps you can take THIS WEEK to serve your immediate family & your faith family?