

Complete Love

John 13:1-20

vs. 1, Before the Passover

In each festival mentioned Jesus is applying its meaning to himself.

John 1:29 “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

#1

2:13, The Jewish Passover was near

2:16, Stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace!

2:19, Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days.

#2

John 6:4 Now the Passover, a Jewish festival, was near.

6:35, “I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again.”

6:40, For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

It is time - to depart from this world to the Father.

This will be a purpose filled, theologically rich, profoundly painful, and gloriously revelatory journey!

He loved them to the end.

Jesus demonstrates the complete and total reality of love.

This is love - to the end.

There is nothing lacking in Jesus’ display of love.

Philippians 2:3-11 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. **4** Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others. **5** Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, **6** who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. **7** Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, **8** he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross. **9** For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth— **11** and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

vs. 6-11, John reveals the essence of humanity.

- Peter wants so desperately to embrace all of who Jesus is.
- Peter is so confused and does not yet understand the enormity of what was coming.

What does foot washing communicate.

1. Jesus is the suffering servant and acts in the totality of love.
2. Followers of Jesus walk the same path (serving and loving one another even to the extent of laying down their lives for one another).

Romans 5:5-8 This hope will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. **6** For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For rarely will someone die for a just person—though for a good person perhaps someone might even dare to die. **8** But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Foot washing

- Cultural necessity.
- Jewish custom when welcoming guests. (Possibly symbolic as an act of eschatological hospitality).

vs. 8, “If I don’t wash you, you have no part with me.”

vs. 10-11, Both physical and spiritual realities.

- You have already bathed, it is only your feet that are dirty.
- You have already gone through the ritual washing in preparation for the passover.
- Peter has already accepted the word of Jesus (15:3).
- You believe that I am the Messiah and the Messiah must lay down his life (the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world).
- The cross is enough (no further cleansing required).

vs. 12-16, Follow my example

This is the last supper event.

Matthew’s record (Matthew 26:17-35)

- One of you will betray me.
- The deep meaning of communion.
- Peter’s denial.

Compare and Contrast

John emphasizes love and self sacrifice.

- Allow the image and the act to “wash” over you!
- Jesus is serving his followers. His death leads to life!
- The gift of Christ is through the sacrifice.

By example: For followers of Jesus, the gift of the kingdom is experienced through sacrifice.

vs. 18, The one who eats my bread has raised his heel against me.

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

Mark 6:11 If any place does not welcome you or listen to you, when you leave there, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

Don’t bite the hand that feeds you -> ungratefulness, betrayal, self-sabotage

If you know, you know...

Why did Jesus tell others about Judas’ betrayal?

In short, he wanted to give them a heads up.

Jesus fulfills and continues the role of prophet, priest, and king.

Deuteronomy 7:6 For you are a holy people belonging to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be his own possession out of all the peoples on the face of the earth.

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, **5** he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. **6** He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.

Question: How can I adopt the same attitude as Jesus? How can I empty myself and assume the posture of a servant?

How do you practically (physically, mentally, and spiritually) love one another?

Have you embraced the totality of what Jesus accomplished through the cross and his resurrection?

How are you enjoying the gift of the kingdom through sacrifice?

How do we show our communities the abundant pouring of his Spirit on us?

Does your life demonstrate the hope of eternal life?