

John 13:1–38 (ESV): Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Pastor Matt Dean

- Reminder of God's sovereignty "all things into his hands" v.3
- Clear picture of what it means to serve with humility
- A new commandment for a new community

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.

Throughout John's gospel – we see a consistent theme, that Jesus knows – he knows his purpose, he knows what to do and say, he knows where to go and this part of the story reveals the same. Pay attention to this – it is BECAUSE JESUS KNOWS – he loves 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,

Jesus

- Knowing the Father had given all things into his hands
- Knowing that He had come from God and was going back to God
- This knowledge of power and relationship is the basis for what lies ahead in his humility to wash dirty feet, to face betrayal, and to ultimately face death on a cross.

(Jesus) 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, but is completely clean. And you 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.

Do you understand what I have done to you?

Do you understand this example of humility – that you should do just as I have done to you?

16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant 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.

The beauty of humility at work... if you know these things – blessed are you if you do them.

18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’ 19 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.

That you believe that I AM

20 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”

Another reminder that Jesus has been sent by the Father – to receive Jesus is to receive I AM

One of You Will Betray Me

21 After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” 22 The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. 23 One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus’ side, 24 so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. 25 So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?” 26 Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”

Jesus knows — and even in this moment — says do this quickly.

28 Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. 29 Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor. 30 So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

A New Commandment

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.

DA Carson - “Jesus is glorified – God’s splendour is displayed in the perfect obedience of the Son’s sacrifice.. Jesus by perfectly revealing the Father to human beings, has brought glory to the Father. If God is glorified in the Son, it is no less true to say that God will glorify the Son in Himself... God is glorified in Jesus’ temporal obedience, sacrifice, death, resurrection and exaltation — one event; Jesus is glorified in the same event, in the eternal presence and essence of His heavenly Father because by this event he re-enters the glory He had with the Father before the Word became incarnate before the world began. The entire event displays the saving sovereignty of God, God’s dawning kingdom.”

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high
(Heb 1:1–3)

33 Little children, (tender care and affection) yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ 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. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

A new commandment – with perfect picture of how = just as I have loved you.
This love translates to everyone.
Disciples loved by Jesus love like Jesus.

Jesus Foretells Peter’s Denial

36 Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.” 37 Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” 38 Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

We see today – that Jesus was on a clear mission to serve in utter humility for the glory of God, in the eternal security and knowledge of knowing his purpose and his Father, walked in perfect obedience. It is from this knowing that Jesus offered his life – and from this knowing that He – the great I AM - would wash the feet of these disciples, including the feet of those who would betray Him and those who would deny Him.

I’m not sure who needs to hear what today – but I know that God does know and I know that His word is perfect, and living and active. I know the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, helping us see with increasing measure, what it means to know and love Jesus.

God is sovereign and trustworthy. Do you believe?

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.

If you trust in Jesus then you can trust this – YOU are in His hands. He came from God and went back to God so that you could be with God forever.

There are circumstances in our lives that have no real solution or quick answer — and the only thing we can really say – is God - this _____ is in your hands and I believe that _____ in Your hands is all i know to do.

My finances, my family, my friends, my guilt, my fear, my shame, my grief, my struggles, my burdens...

God I give you _____ and as I give you _____ really what I am doing is I am giving myself to You. I am in Your hands, my life is in your hands, my questions with no answers are in Your hands.

Jesus models what it means to serve one another in humility – this is not something we should know as a concept, but a choice that comes with a promise: blessed is he who does this.

This simple promise – I am blessed when I humble myself and serve others in Jesus name.

Jesus gives a new commandment to love just as He has have loved you.

Disciples loved by Jesus love like Jesus.

People who know the love of Jesus will love like Jesus.

Jesus washed the feet of people that would betray and deny Him.

Jesus died for people who had and would sin against Him.

Jesus died his death so that those who trust Him could truly live.

What I am discovering (high capacity to do / struggle to be) which is great until its not, but the real fruit, the real joy is knowing the difference between by very limited strength vs. the abiding presence of God in my life as His love is perfected in me.

God Is Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

(1 Jn 4:7–16)

That we might live THROUGH Him. God abides in us. We abide in Him. His love is perfected in us.

