



The Table Part 3

November 19, 2023

The Gospel of Saint John 13:1-20, “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, 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.¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant^[d] 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.¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled,^[d] ‘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.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.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Words Today, in Jesus Name. Amen!

Jesus revealed the Love of God sitting around a table

1. Jesus Demonstrated the Love of God by Serving Those that He Did Life With!

- a. Verses 3-5 record the following, “³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then 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.
- b. And just as Christ, so must we do! We, as His Body, demonstrate the Love of God by serving those that we do life with!
- c. This is the foundation of building a community of common unity!

- d. Notice that the dirt from their feet was transferred to His towel wrapped around himself; The shepherd should smell like sheep. He identified with them by being on the only one who had the authority to clean them.
- e. Note the words of Paul's second letter to the Church of Corinth found in 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
- f. Church family, the greatest test of the Church is to give Grace to the Church; possibly some of our greatest trials as Christians is giving grace to other Christians.
- g. I, to my own shame, have been guilty of this and it is my truest and sincerest prayer that the Lord continue to lead me and correct me when I am wrong.
- h. But not only did Jesus Demonstrate the Love of God by Serving Those that He Did Life With! Point #2...

2. Jesus Demonstrated the Love of God by His Willingness to Clean the Dirtiest Places of their Lives!

- a. Verses 6-10 record, "He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" 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.”

- b. Friends, Christ is not afraid of kneeling in the floor to clean the feet of his disciples because it was not just the act but the heart of the act that left a lasting impression.
- c. Note verse 7, **Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”**
- d. How often have we found ourselves in the throes of difficulty or turmoil or trial and we find ourselves in prayer asking, “Lord, what are you doing? Why are you allowing this? This can’t be your plan! Are you aware of these issues? What are you doing?”
- e. And the Lord speaks to your heart and says “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”
- f. Could it be that perhaps the most difficult of seasons is actually the Lord cleaning up some dirty places, addressing some hard stuff, correcting some difficult parts of your life.

- g. What they thought he was doing was just washing their feet; but what he was actually doing had far more eternal implications.
- h. And perhaps the Lord's plan for us is the same. When we encounter those hard seasons, those difficult times, perhaps the Lord is speaking to your heart today; you don't understand what I am doing now but after I am done, you will. Let me finish what I have started."
- i. But not only has Jesus Demonstrated the Love of God by His Willingness to Clean the Dirtiest Places of their Lives... Point #3

3. Jesus Demonstrated the Love of God to His Disciples to Establish a Moniker of True Discipleship!

- a. Verses 12-15, ¹²When 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? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.
- b. Many years ago, there was a movement with a bracelet that had the acronym "WWJD" inscribed upon the band. It stood for What Would Jesus Do.

- c. There many things that Jesus did that gets us excited; he flipped tables, chased folks with whips, he healed the lame and the sick, raised the dead, cast out devils, healed blind people, confounded the Pharisees, confronted social issues, and multiplied food to feed thousands. All of those are easy to preach on; but there is one thing that Jesus did that is a challenge to us all.
- d. Will you wash one another's feet? Are you willing to kneel and wash the feet of those who hurt you? Betrayed you? Are you willing to wash the feet of your friends and foes?
- e. Jesus instructs us in verse 14-15, **"¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."**
- f. A recent challenge my pastor issued to me was the following, "Can you hug those who hurt you?". I have pondered that question because honestly it is hard. That is hard to do. I struggled with that challenge until I read this verse; because Judas was amongst the host of people that Jesus knelt in front of and washed his feet.

- g. Even while preparing this message this week, the Lord began to deal with me about bitterness in my heart and unforgiveness that I knew I had to address.
- h. Friends, Jesus Demonstrated the Love of God to His Disciples to Establish a Moniker of True Discipleship and that was to be willing to wash one another's feet, help one another clean up the dirtiest places of each other's lives. He gave us this demonstration as an example that we should do just as He has done. And church, I know that is hard. I understand. But if we all, include me, choose to follow Christ then we must be willing to do what Jesus did. Point #4...

4. Jesus Demonstrated the Love of God by His Instruction for His Church to Immolate His Character and Heart to the World as much as it is to be Immolated within His Church!

- a. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸I 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.' ¹⁹I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I

am he. 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.”

b. “Pastor, these instructions of Christ are hard.” I know, it is hard for all of us but we must remember the Words of Christ, in verse 17, ¹⁷ “If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

c. I know it’s hard but blessed is tied to our doing of them and not just our knowing. Church it’s hard but there is a blessing tied to our obedience. I close with the final instruction of Jesus in verse 20...

d. 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.”

e. We must receive the ones He sends to us because that is what Christ has called us to do. And we will do just that... we will celebrate and receive the One! Why? Because its time to make the table bigger...