



The Table Series Part 3

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A few Sundays ago, we began a series entitled, “The Table” during which we began a study of the accounts of Christ while at a table and the revelations that we can glean from the conversations, events, and insight that were shared. Some of the greatest revelations of the Father were delivered by Jesus sitting around a table! We’ve discovered in the Word regarding God’s Heart for Broken People as well as His Power to Provide Supernaturally while being surrounded by a crowd of hungry people that had followed Jesus into a desert place.

But Jesus not only demonstrated the Heart of God and the Provision of God, He reveals the Love of God while sitting around a table. And in the Gospel of Saint John 13:1-20, Jesus does just that. He reveals to us the Love of God while sitting around a Table...

(Please Stand for the Reading of the Word)

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. 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. 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.”

In this Text, Jesus revealed the Love of God while sitting around a Table of Dirty Feet and Dirty Little Secrets... And in this Text, Jesus not only washed the Feet of His Friends but also the Feet of His enemy! So with that said, Point #1...

- 1) Jesus demonstrated the Love of God by serving those He did life with (verses 3-5)
 - a) “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) Notice here in this text that Jesus rose up, laid aside his outer garments, tied a towel around His waist, filled a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet. But the most power point of this text is the last part of verse 5, “and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”.
 - c) Why I feel that this last part is so important is because the stain of dirt would be found in every stroke of the towel and this stain was found on the very towel that Christ wore upon Himself. And as He worked His way around the room, the towel would have become filthier and grimier with the stains of washing dirty feet.
 - d) These stains were found upon the clothes and towel of Christ Jesus and He bore these stains proudly because in the end, He was the only one who would have the power to wash away the Stain of Sin!

- e) The Word Picture that this text of Scripture provides is a prophetic representation of Jesus submitting Himself to the Cross therefore washing the Stains of Sin from a Fallen Humanity!
- f) Jesus demonstrated the Love of God by serving those He did life with and His serving established the standard of being a Disciple of Christ! And if we are His Disciples then we must, in turn, be willing to demonstrate the Love of God by serving those we do life with.
- g) But not only did Jesus demonstrate the Love of God by serving those He did life with, (Point #2)

2) Jesus demonstrated the Love of God by His willingness to clean the dirtiest place of their lives (verses 6-10)

- a) “⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸Peter 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!” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet,^[a] but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.”

- b) Peter, in this Text, refused until Jesus made it clear that Peter would have no part of the Kingdom unless he allowed Christ to address the dirtiest places of his life.
- c) Jesus has no qualms with speaking into the Dirty Places of our lives and even exposing our dirty little secrets; sometimes the greatest points of Grace in our lives are found in His exposing of our Sin. Jesus will never be able to heal a place in our lives that we are not willing to submit to His Correction and, at times, His exposure is an act of Grace.
- d) And as we can easily discern in light of Peter's encounter with Christ, Jesus is not afraid of diving into the trenches of our lives because, in the end, He is the only one who can transform us.
- e) Dr. Eugene Peterson said, *"When we sin and mess up our lives, we find that God doesn't go off and leave us - he enters into our trouble and saves us."*
- f) And we, as Disciples of Christ, must be willing to wash the feet of others even though we run the risk of having to deal with dirty feet and dirty little secrets; or perhaps even some of us may find ourselves washing the feet of a Judas.

- g) Too many in our modern Church age are consumed with Titles and see no value in the Towel; but if you are going to be a Disciple of Christ then you need to disrobe from your Title and Pick up Your Towel because there are some Dirty Feet that need washing.
- h) Dr. Mark Rutland declared, *“How can we be the salt of the earth if we are afraid to touch the dirt?”*
- i) When are we going to make the choice to reach out and love people the way that Jesus loved and be willing to wade off into the muck and the mire of their lives which includes Biblical Correction? Biblical Grace includes Biblical Correction; it does not eliminate it. And if we are to be the salt of the Earth then we must not be afraid of dealing with dirty people!
- j) Luke 19:10 records that the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost. But too many churches exist only to seek and to entertain those which are found; And, Church Family, we are NOT going to be that kind of Church!
- k) I say again, if we are to be the salt of the Earth then we must not be afraid of dealing with dirty people!
- l) But not only did Jesus demonstrate the Love of God by His willingness to clean the dirtiest place of our lives, (Point #3)

3) Jesus demonstrated the Love of God to His disciples to establish a Moniker of Genuine Discipleship (verses 12-15)

a) “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) We must be willing to engage the dirty places of a fallen humanity. We must be willing to wash the feet of a Culture of Brokenness and Sin or we will be found guilty of washing our hands of the Great Commission. It's called the Great Commission; not the Great Suggestion.

c) And if our Lord and Teacher has washed the dirtiest places of our lives then we must be willing to do the same. For He has given us an example of what we should do for others just as He has done for us.

d) The Apostle James noted the following in his Letter found in James 1:22-25 records, “²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law

of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

- e) So the question that I have for all of us today is this... Is your towel dirty? Because if it is not dirty then you are missing the Point. For if your towel is dirty then you will be blessed in your doing!

f)