



Gospel Of John Series – 83
BECOMING PEOPLE OF THE TOWEL - 02
“The Call To Christlike Service”
John 13:1-17

INTRODUCTION & REVIEW

I. THE CONTEXT OF CHRIST’S SERVICE (v. 1–3)

- **Jesus’ Knowledge:** He knew His hour had come (v.1).
Service was not beneath Him, even as He faced the cross.
- **Jesus’ Love:** He loved His own to the end (v.1).
Service flows from love, not obligation.
- **Jesus’ Authority:** He knew the Father had given all things into His hands (v.3).
True service is not weakness, but strength under God’s authority.

Principle: Christian service is rooted in a clear understanding of identity in Christ and obedience to the Father.

Remember...

Your responsibility, by God’s enabling, is to constantly apply the divine principles and truths you have heard (Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Tim. 4:7-9; Jam 1:22-27).
As you meditate on this message, ask yourself these questions:
How does God want my beliefs/actions to change?
How can I accomplish this change?
What is the first step toward bringing about this change?

II. THE CONDUCT OF CHRIST'S SERVICE (v. 4–11)

- **The Humility of Jesus:** He laid aside His garments, took a towel, and washed their feet (v.4–5). The Master became the servant.

- **The Resistance of Peter:** Peter struggled to accept this act (v.6–8). Pride often resists receiving grace and hinders service.

- **The Necessity of Cleansing:** Jesus emphasized that unless He cleanses us, we have no part with Him (v.8–10). Service is secondary to salvation; only the cleansed can serve rightly.

Principle: Before we serve others, we must first be cleansed by Christ and submit to His lordship.

III. THE CALL TO FOLLOW CHRIST'S EXAMPLE (v. 12–17)

- **Understanding the Lesson (v.12–13):** *“You call Me Teacher and Lord... and so I am.”*

Service doesn't cancel authority—it redefines how authority is used.

- **The Command to Serve (v.14–15):** *“You also ought to wash one another's feet.”*

This is not optional but a command to humble, practical service.

- **The Blessing of Obedience (v.17):** *“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”*

The joy is in the doing, not just the knowing.

Principle: Service is not beneath the believer—it is our calling and brings blessing when done in obedience.

IV. Application for Today

- Christ showed us the pattern: love, humility, obedience.
- Service is not an option for the believer—it is a mark of Christlikeness.
- Challenge: Will you take up the towel, as Christ did, and serve with joy?