

## July 28

**John 13:12-17 (AMP)** [Jesus said,] <sup>12</sup> So when He had washed their feet and put on His [outer] robe and reclined at the table again, He said to them, “Do you understand what I have done for you? <sup>13</sup> You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right in doing so, for that is who I am. <sup>14</sup> So if I, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet as well. <sup>15</sup> For I gave you [this as] an example, so that you should do [in turn] as I did to you. <sup>16</sup> I assure you and most solemnly say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed [happy and favored by God] if you put them into practice [and faithfully do them].

Many years ago, teachers were informed of a new evaluation system that included the decor of the room. Two requirements caused me some concern: bulletin boards and class rules. I am not artistic in any way so putting up bulletin boards was a challenge. When I attempted to post class rules, I realized that whatever I posted was the “law” in my room. I struggled to make a comprehensive list of what I expected. I finally gave up, and, instead, I told my students we were all adults. I would treat them with respect. I expected them to treat me and each other with respect. This was another way of saying we were to treat others the way we wanted to be treated. I ended that “rule session” by asking, “Do you understand?”

When I asked that question, I was asking my students to go beyond written rules. I was asking them to look at the spirit behind the rule because no list could ever cover what showing others respect really meant. When Jesus asked His disciples and us, “Do you understand what I have done for you,” He was telling us that following Him was not a legalistic endeavor but a heart and spirit endeavor. If we look only at the “rules,” then we all would be washing each other’s feet. We would have the Church of the Foot Washers. Instead, Jesus wants us to look at Him and all He has done for us. Do we truly understand what He has done for us? Do we truly understand that He paid the penalty for all our sins and why He did so? Do we understand that each of us was chosen by name to be a royal priesthood? Do we fully understand that we are temples of the Holy Spirit? We will never understand based upon our limited intellect and mindset; however, when we look to Jesus and seek the Holy Spirit, the law melts away and understanding fills our hearts, minds, and spirits. Then, we will be blessed when we do as Jesus did.